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Centennial Courtyard, a pedestrian plaza, was completed in 2007 on the Poplarville campus. It features a clock tower (right), plenty of lighting and trees as part of the landscape.

Pearl River Community College

The first 100 years

Published by
Department of Public Relations
Pearl River Community College

Dr. William Lewis, President
Dr. John Grant, Vice President for Instruction
Dr. Adam Breerwood, Dean of Student Services

89226

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The centerpiece of the Forrest County Center in Hattiesburg is the Allied Health Center. This building houses allied health occupation related programs. It also houses the office of the dean of the center as well as academic classrooms. The Forrest County Center opened in 1970 and is located on Highway 49 South.

Written, edited and designed by Chuck Abadie, Janet Braswell and Ronn Hague.
Technical advisors were Mitch Deaver and Kenny Russell.

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In 2008-2009, Pearl River Community College celebrates its 100th anniversary. This Centennial logo, designed by Mitch Deaver, Assistant Director of Public Relations at PRCC, will be used throughout the year. The Centennial Celebration begins with a big campus celebration and parade on Sept. 8, 2008, PRCC's anniversary date. Other events are planned throughout the year, including Homecoming on Oct. 11, 2008. The festivities will culminate with a big celebration in April 2009. Below is a copy of the logo used by the college today.

On the cover: Huff Hall, built in 1919 on the site of the original brick structure that housed Pearl River County Agricultural High School, is the oldest existing building on the PRCC campus and one of the oldest buildings on any community college campus in Mississippi. It is, and has been since its construction, a men's dormitory. Huff Hall is named after James Andrew Huff, the third principal of the agriculutural high school and the first president of Pearl River College.

A pictorial collection depicting 100 years of Pearl River Community College

The institution known today as Pearl River Community College first opened its doors on Sept. 8, 1909, as Pearl River County Agricultural High School.

Forty-two students, including 19 boarders, enrolled for the inaugural school year. Within three days, 19 more students enrolled and by Christmas, the student body numbered 83.

The students attended classes on the ground floor of a three-story brick building under the supervision of principal T.M. Kelly. Female boarding students lived on the second floor and males on the third floor.

A 1910 student essay preserved in the Pearl River Community College Museum tells of a day regulated by bells - the breakfast bell, chapel bell, class bells, study hours bell and the bell signaling bedtime. Students' rooms were heated by coal fires and emptying the ashes in the grate was a daily chore; some students worked on the farm after classes while others worked in offices or the dining hall.

But life was not all drudgery, wrote the student, whose name has been lost.

"Your friends come in, lounge on your bed, handle your books, try on your new hat and take possession of your room in general. You discuss athletics, and the latest football hero; you wonder which has the best team -Yale or Harvard? You talk of the next aeroplane race and the best make of automobile; you mention politics; you discuss prospects for a greater school; you tell which teacher you like best and ask your neighbor if he has his history for tomorrow; you tell your friends about your great-aunt who married a millionaire; you describe the clown you saw in the circus, and teach your friends the rabbit dance, much to the uneasiness of those below, until you are finally interrupted by the supper bell."

A second building to house classrooms and administrative offices was built in 1911 and named for then- principal Will Jacobs. A girls' dormitory, Batson Hall, was finished in 1912 and the original PRCAHS building was converted to a boys' dormitory.

Jacobs won a national Model County School grant from the Rockefeller Foundation that provided Pearl River with a county agent, home economist, county school doctor and nurse, assistant county school superintendent and staff along with a summer school program.

Fire destroyed the original building on April 27, 1919. It was replaced by Huff Hall, still in use today as a mens' residence hall.

The school's board of trustees voted in September 1920 to begin offering freshman college courses the next year, making Pearl River College the first publicly-funded, two-year college in Mississippi.

A year later, the state Legislature passed Senate Bill 251 authorizing some county agricultural high schools to offer freshman and sophomore college courses. The PRCAHS trustees authorized adding sophomore courses in August 1922; however, the courses were not added to the curriculum until the 1925-26 year.

Freshmen during the 1928-29 session were required to take English, history and physical education and chose from French, Spanish, Latin, mathematics, chemistry, education, agronomy crops, animal husbandry, bookkeeping, shorthand and music as electives.

Required courses for sophomores were English, history or economics and physical education. They chose from the same electives as freshmen with the addition of agronomy and soil management and dairying and poultry.

Fees, board, books and laundry for a session totaled $146.15. Residents of Pearl River County paid no tuition; out-of-county students paid $6 a month in tuition.

Crosby Hall was built in 1921 as a dormitory and dining hall to seat 300. College Hall, now Moody Hall, was built in 1926 at a cost of $65,000. The 22,000-square-foot building featured administrative offices, classrooms and a 1,000-seat auditorium/gymnasium.

Hurricane Katrina ripped the roof from the auditorium section in 2005, forcing officials to demolish that portion of the building. However, the classroom portion has been repaired and is the oldest classroom building in use at any of the state's 15 community colleges. White Hall opened as a women's dormitory in 1928, and Pearl River Hall for men opened in 1933.

Kathryn Moody of Poplarville, Class of '36, lived in White Hall and worked in the library and as a professor's secretary.

"We were very privileged to go to college," she said. "There was no money. We all worked. A lot of the boys and girls worked on the farm. We produced almost everything we had to eat."

Pearl River became one of the first two-year colleges to receive approval from the War Department for a Reserve Officers Training Corps unit in 1935. By 1939, the ROTC program included two companies of cadets.

During World War II, the college required all males to enroll in the military department and to wear their uniforms daily. Members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps also wore uniforms daily. The ROTC program flourished at Pearl River until 1948 when it was transferred to the Mississppi National Guard.

After the war, soldiers returned to campus, which rapidly expanded. An Army surplus prefab building became apartments for married veterans. It was named Bilbo Hall. Vocational students put up another prefab building, which became Jefferson Davis Hall. Shivers Gymnasium was finished in 1949, and the gymnasium/auditorium in Moody Hall was converted to an auditorium.

A total of 328 students attended Pearl River in 1953-54 when Martin Smith of Poplarville was student body president.

"There were three cars owned by students," he remembers.

John Grant, now vice president for instruction, was a boy when his family moved into Bilbo Hall in 1953 after Grant's father was hired to teach math and science.

"We had a good time on campus," Grant said. "It was a farm, an agricultural high school up until 1960.

"There were sheep, cattle, chickens; all those kinds of things. I spent a lot of time riding my bike. We roamed all over the campus."

In 1960 the high school classes were transferred to the Poplarville school district. As enrollment at Pearl River Junior College grew throughout the 1960s, so did campus facilities with construction of a student center, the science and mathematics building, Dobie Holden Stadium, the Career-Technical Building, the library and a classroom building.

Academic offerings continued to change with the times as Pearl River College moved into the second half of its first century and vocational, technical and industrical education programs became more comprehensive.

The look of the campus changed dramatically when Jacobs Hall was torn down in 1968. Hurricane Camille damaged Batson Hall so badly in 1969 that it, too, had to be demolished. Damage to the campus from Camille was estimated at $750,000.

Pearl River Junior College expanded to Hattiesburg in 1970 with the addition of post-secondary practical nursing and general clerical courses and high school programs in brick masonry, metal trades and air conditioning and refrigeration at the Forrest County Vocational-Technical Center on U.S. 49.

Dr. Cecil Burt, now dean of the Forrest County Center, came to the Vo-Tech Center in 1972 as a counselor and became director a year later.

"All we had was vocational-technical," he said. "There was not an academic class here. We had a huge enrollment of high school students. At one time, we had gotten up to 250 high school students."

The college added and discontinued vocational programs based on demand and started the first Allied Health program - respiratory therapy - in 1973. By 1990, the last of the high school vo-tech programs ran its course. The new Allied Health Center opened in 1992 and today houses nine health-care programs.

Today the center also offers a full-range of academic courses while retaining its vo-tech roots.

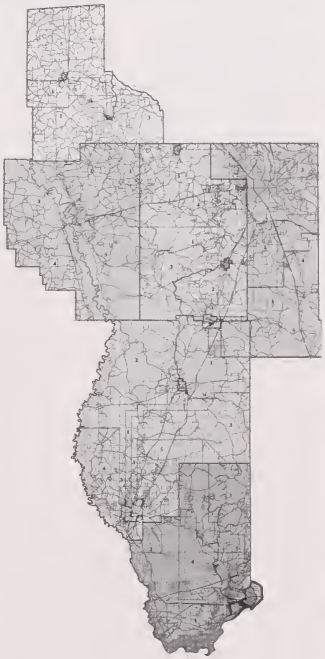
"Welding, electronics and air conditioning-refrigeration are the three old-line programs that have been successful for us," Burt said.

As the Forrest County Center grew, building and renovation on the Poplarville campus continued throughout the 1970s, including construction of Marvin R. White Coliseum, the automotive-diesel mechanics building, president's home, Technology Center, mens' and womens' dormitories in 1990 and 2006, Nursing-Wellness Center, Malone Chapel and career-technical building. The Alexander Administration Building, Science Building, Garvin H. Johnston Library and Crosby Hall underwent major renovations.

Hurricane Katrina slammed Poplarville on Aug. 29, 2005, wrecking White Coliseum and Moody Hall auditorium and damaging almost every roof on campus. Katrina also swamped the new Hancock Center in Waveland with eight feet of water. Damage to PRCC facilities was calculated at $45 million to $50 million and total recovery is expected to take several more years.

George W. Bush became the first U. S. president to visit PRCC when he met with state leaders in the Technology Center a few days after Katrina's landfall.

With a record enrollment of 4,350 students in 2007-08, Pearl River Community College sits poised for a second century of providing quality educational and service opportunities to all who seek them.



The Pearl River Community College district is comprised of six counties: Jefferson Davis, Marion, Lamar, Forrest, Pearl River and Hancock.

Superintendents and Presidents

Will Jacobs
1911-1917

James Andrew Huff
1917-1926

Simeon Lafayette Stringer
1926-1932

Robert Edward Lee Sutherland
1937-1942

Arthur Benjamin Nicholson
1936-1937

Joseph Forrest Stuart
1932-37

■ T.M. Kelly (1909-1911) was the first superintendent. Photo not available.

Reese Dermont McLendon
1942-1953

Garvin Howell Johnston
1953-1967

William A. Lewis
2000-Present

Marvin Ross White
1968-1986

Ted J. Alexander
1986-2000

The First 50 Years

Pearl River County Agricultural High School's original building, built in 1909, was a three-story structure. The ground floor was used for classrooms, and the second and third floors for dormitory students. The girls stayed on the second floor and the boys on the third floor. It burned in April, 1919.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Female students pose for 1919 photo outside Batson Hall, the girls dormitory.

Professor J P. Culpepper stops for a drink of water before class.

Above, this photo of the school and its student body was taken around 1920. It shows, from left, Batson Hall, Jacobs Hall and Huff Hall. Batson Hall would later be destroyed during Harricane Camille in 1969. Jacobs Hall was torn down in 1968 to make way for a new administration building. Right, a student sits on a saw-horse outside the recently-completed Huff Hall in 1919. Huff Hall was built on the site of the orginal building, which burned earlier that same year.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

In 1924, Pearl River College fielded its first junior college team, coached by E.W. 'Goat' Hale, who is pictured back row right. Also in the photo is J.A. Huff, back row left, the college's first president. This team, nicknamed the Wildcats, became the forerunner to one of the most powerful and long-lived junior college teams in the nation, racking up 17 state championships and two national championships. One highlight of the 1911 team photo below left is the school's original bell tower, which now hangs in Malone Chapel.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Members of the 1911 Pearl River AHS football team included from left. Clarence Stewart, Clyde Fulton, Robert Stewart, Hubert Strahan, Basil Breland, Seancy Davis, John Lumpkin, Ned Cooper, George Pearson, L.A. Hurst, and John Pearson.

Pearl River County Agricultural High School fielded its first football team in 1909. The coach (top left) was J.B. Anthony, the ag teacher. They played one game that first season, losing to Poplarville High School. Team members who can be identified from left: Front row - Henry Rester, George Pearson, Ben Landrum, E.S., Carley Alexander, Joe Ard and Lawrence Batson. Back row - Luther Smith, Thad Thornhill, Charles Lee and Strayhen.

In 1934, Mrs. D.W. Camp, physical education director, started the first May Day Celebration at Pearl River College.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

A scene from the senior play "Mammy's Lil' Wild Rose" in 1928.

In 1929, most girls were members of the Girl Reserve, a science club.

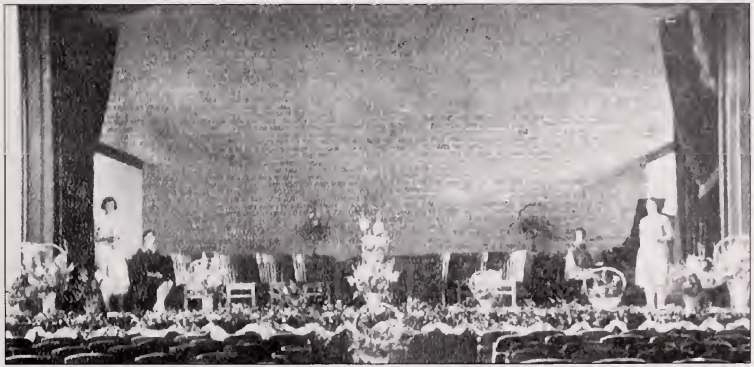
The 1924 Pearl River football team (above), coached by J.A. Huff and Edwin "Goat" Hale, finished 7-0 and won the school's first state championship. Among the teams they defeated were Mississippi College (38-3), State Teachers College (26-6) and Louisiana University (40-0). Five of their victories were shutouts. Pearl River also won state championships in 1926 and 1927. Left is a picture of the school's first baseball team in 1927. Pearl River won its first state championship in boys basketball in 1928.

Did you know:

■ In 1928, tuition to attend Pearl River College was free to all who lived in Pearl River County, $6 per month to those who lived outside Pearl River County. Other expenses per session: Entrance fee, $14; board per month, $12.50; books, $12 for all; laundry per session: $7.95. Total to attend school: $146.15.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Above, girls go through their exercise routines as part of physical education class in the College Hall school gymnasium. The 1928-29 Pearl River catalog states: Physical education is essential to health and wisdom for a sound body goes to make up a sound mind. Right photo, preparations are made for a play in College Hall.



Did you know:

■ According to the 1928-29 catalog, representatives from 30 counties in Mississippi and four states comprised the student body. Permission for leave of absence, withdrawal, or visiting must be made direct to the Superintendent by the parents and not by the pupil.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

A new girls dormitory was begun in 1912. This impressive three-story building stood for 57 years. It was named Batson Hall in the 1940s. In 1969, Hurricane Camille's high winds irreparably damaged the building and it was demolished. Today, Marion Hall, a boys dormitory, stands on the site of Batson Hall.

Did you know:

■ The school farm owns 255 acres, 100 of which are in cultivation and the remainder in pastures, according to the 1928-29 catalog. Grown on the farm were splendid crops of corn, cane, velvet beans, peas, potatoes and vegatables, etc.

In 1923, the first president's home was constructed for James Andrew Huff, Pearl River College's first president. The house served as the president's home until 1987, when a two-story, 5,100-square-foot home was built. Today, the first president's home serves as the offices for the school's Development Foundation.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Left, members of the 1939 Music Club at Pearl River included: Seated - LaVelle Walker and De Lois Curry. Standing from left - Annette Sutherland, J.O. Robertson, Betty Cooper, James Rawls, Lewise Dyess, Sammy Lou Turner, James Redding, Jack Hathorne and Julia Cooper.

Did you know:

■ The R.O.T.C. program on campus began in 1935. By 1939, the cadets were responsible for cleaning their rooms military style. They had to stand daily room and personal inspection. Their assigned rifles were inspected daily also, and if they passed inspection, they were allowed to go to the movies downtown.

Right, members of the 1939 cheerleading squad included: From left - Louise Bowman, Lynn Parkman, Eleanor Castle, La Velle Stewart and Ethelda Beard. Beard was also selected Miss Pearl River College. PRC coaches that year were R.H. Baxter and John Scafide.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

First Platoon, Company A (1939)

Second Platoon, Company A (1939)

Pearl River Community College's formal association with the United States Armed Forces began on Nov. 7, 1933, when, at a Board of Trustees meeting, a motion was made to "appoint a committee for the purpose of conferring with the necessary authorities concerning a unit of the National Guard or R.O.T.C. to be established at the college."

Thanks to the assistance of U.S. Senators Pat Harrison and Theodore Bilbo and Rep. Bill Colmer, Pearl River Agricultural High School and Junior College received a telegram approving the charter for the fall 1935 sesssion. This was the first charter granted to a junior college in the state of Mississippi. By 1939, the school had two companies comprised of two platoons each and more than 100 male students.

By 1935, the face of the campus was changing. The school began to resemble a militarty school more than an agricultural high school as uniformed students were seen marching on the grounds. The campus newspaper began and was named "The Cadet" to reflect the times.

Company A officers and sponsors for the 1939-40 school year were from left: Sponsor Pauline Brown, First Lieutenant B.H. Byrd, sponsor Mary Hugh Wells, Second Lieutenant J.L. Fleming, sponsor Alyce Wanda Daniels, and Second Lieutenant K.M. Nelson.

Company A battalion staff and sponsors for the 1939-40 year were from left: Sponsor Ethelda Beard, Major Delma Entrekin, Battalion Commander; sponsor Mildred Ritchie, Captain Robert Word Williams, Adjutant; sponsor Sammy Lou Turner, and Lieutenant Fred Madden, Band Commander.

Celeste "Pete" Taylor was a cadet at Pearl River Junior College from 1939-40. He was also a standout athlete before transferring to the University of Southern Mississippi.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives and Dr. Barbara Gandy

First Platoon, Company B (1939)

Second Platoon, Company B (1939)

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the military influence on campus showed a marked increase, with all male students required to take R.O.T.C. The women, as patriotic as the men, were either sponsors in the R.O.T.C. or were members of the Women's Auxilary Unit on campus.

The drill field on campus was where the Science and Mathematics building is now located, and it was used daily to drill the platoons. Often, a company would parade into town, marching in formation.

The R.O.T.C. program continued until after the war, when interest waned. This was not the end of PRC's military interest. Many of the returning servicemen became members of the National Guard.

Company B officers and sponsors during the 1939-40 school year included from left: Sponsor Patty Lou Smith, Captain M.L. Smith, sponsor Lottye Mae Compton, First Lieutenant W.B. Seals, sponsor Matty Lynn Smith, Second Lieutenant C.J. Moran, sponsor Myrtle Crain and Second Lieutenant A.T. Bailey.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Members of the 1st Battalion band in 1939: Clarinets - J.O. Robertson, Betty Cooper, James Redding, Arleeta Robinson, James Branton; Cornets - James Richardson, Julia Cooper, S.D. Slade; Alto Saxophones - Annette Sutherland, Malcolm Sumrall; Tenor Saxophone - James Rawls; Baritone - De Lois Curry; French Horn - Houston Smith, Helen Broom, Sammy Lou Turner; Trombone - Lavelle Walker, Billy Stewart, J.P. Rester; Bell Lyre - Nellie Sue Williamson; Cymbals - Cecil Broom; Bass Horn - Fred Madden, Lester Ware; Snare Drum - Paul Robinson, Mattie Moffett, Logan Smith; Bass Drum - Willi Adams; Drum Major - Schultz Nelson; Majorette - Jack Hathorne. Director - Max Batson.

The PRC Ambulance Company, 106 Medical Battalion, was based on the campus in 1948 before the National Guard facility was built in Poplarville. This photograph was taken on the old football practice field.

Above, R.O.T.C. students practice marching on campus. Below left, Sgt. C.E. Davis was assigned to the PRC program by the U.S. Army. Below right, James Elihu Branton (right) and one of his pals practice their drill work.

It was not uncommon to see a company parade into town, marching in formation.

After the Pearl Harbor attack, many female students became sponsors in R.O.T.C.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Members of the Dramatics Club in 1940 included from left: Front row - Vera Mae Watts, Erleene Sheffield, Miss Frances Durham, director, Mary Hugh Wells and Delores Simpson. Back row - Lavon Miller, Robert Word Williams, Billy Prescott and Will Roy Bowman.

Did you know:

■ During the war, all male college-age students were serving the country, so the 1942 football season was called after the first four games and the entire season was cancelled in 1943.

Members of the 1940 Glee Club were from left: Seated - Louise Bowman, De Lois Curry, Mildred Ritchie, Edwina Richardson, Annette Sutherland, Genevieve Smith and Lewise Dyess. Back row - Lorraine Lee, Hezzie Morgan, Elsie Mae Smith, Madelyn Ritchie, Lavelle Walker, Katherine Maddox, Houston Smith, Johnnie Merle Davis, R.A. Colter, Marguerite Impson and John Wolfe. The director was Thelma Batson.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

The 'Antics of Andrew'

Left photo, a view of the cast as it appeared in the closing scenes of the senior play "The Antics of Andrew" on the night of May 3, 1945, in the college auditorium. Seated are Edward Earl Lott, Dean Socrates Baynton of Cameron College, and Ann Lutz, Miss Prunelle Thorne, a faculty member in love with the dean.
Standing from left: Charles Debrow, Evelyn Teel, Fred Yates, Donald Kerr, Jimmy Cook, Sybil Goings, Jack Adams, Tommy Dunbar, Bennett Hall, Miriam Provost, Leroy Richards, and Betty Jo Breland.
Bottom left, Charles Debrow, as Andrew Browne, and Evelyn Teel, as Althea, in a final love scene in the play.
Bottom center, "You have stolen him from me! Oh, you hussy! I'll pull every hair out of your head," screamed Ann Lutz, as Miss Prunella, in the play. Jerking the wig from the head of Bennett Hall (Harold Hadley), she revealed that it was not a woman who had been flirting with her sweetheart, Dean Socrates Boynton, played by Edward Earl Lott.
Bottom right, Petunia, played by Sybil Goings, fusses over the dinner with French butler Jacques, portrayed by Jimmy Cook.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Seated, Andrew Browne prepares for his Uncle Isaac's coming in a womenless play in 1946. He must have a wife and mother-in-law. "Can't you grasp how simple it is? Why, you fellows are actually dressed for the parts! Now get this straight: Willie (Leroy Richards), you will play my wife, and Harold (Bennett Hall), you will play my mother-in-law."

The 1946 Pearl River choir following a performance.

The 1946 1st Battalion band marches past Moody Hall on the PRC campus.

The 1946 Pearl River orchestra.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Pearl River Hall, a two-story, brick veneer dormitory of 8,178 square feet, was built in 1933 with 31 rooms to house 62 students and one apartment to house the head resident and family. The dorm was completely renovated in 2000. The front porch still stands today, minus the roof.

Huff Hall, built in 1919, is a three-story brick residence hall of 10,145 square feet, providing living space for 87 men and an apartment for the head resident and family. The structure was completely renovated in 2000. The 1923 Pearl River catalog lists Huff Hall as "one of the most beautiful as well as serviceable buildings of its kind in the state."

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Moody Hall, a three-story structure, was built in 1912. It housed the Department of Fine Arts and Communication before Hurricane Katrina destroyed the auditorium. The building was officially opened in 1926 at a cost of $65,000. The front section was been renovated since Katrina hit in 2005.

Shivers Gymnasium, built in 1948, offers space for a game room and intramural activities and other student services. However, since White Coliseum was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, Shivers Gym is the temporary home for the PRCC men's and women's basketball programs. Shiver's Gym was named for Judge J.C. Shivers.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum Archives

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In 1949, mules used to plow the fields were kept in a barn on Pearl River's campus. The barn was located where the Johnston Library sits today.

The newspaper staff prepares another edition of The Cadet in the late 1940s.

Cadet Capt. E.B. Strain, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Strain of Poplarville, distinguished himself in Military as Battalion Adjutant and winner of the medal for most efficient cadet. He was also vice-president of his high school junior class in 1943 and Mr. P.H.S. in the Who's Who contest.

Miss Miriam Provost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Provost of Poplarville, was elected Miss P.H.S. and also named Most Popular High School Girl during the session of 1944-45. During her three years at P.H.S., she was active in high school activities, being an R.O.T.C. sponsor her last two years and football queen in 1943.

Cadet Corporal Bennett Hall, son of Mr. and Mrs. G.B. Hall of Mt. Olive, distinguished himself in dramatics, playing parts in "Girl Shy" and "The Antics of Andrew" in 1945. He was a member of the International Relations Club, Boy's Club and Literary Club.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Glenn Burrow (left) and Joe Terrell handled bus-driving duties in the late '40s.

Photos courtesy of Mary Jean Saulters

Thomas Earl Dean (left) played on the 1946-47 team. Right, Hollis Castleberry and a friend pose for a picture.

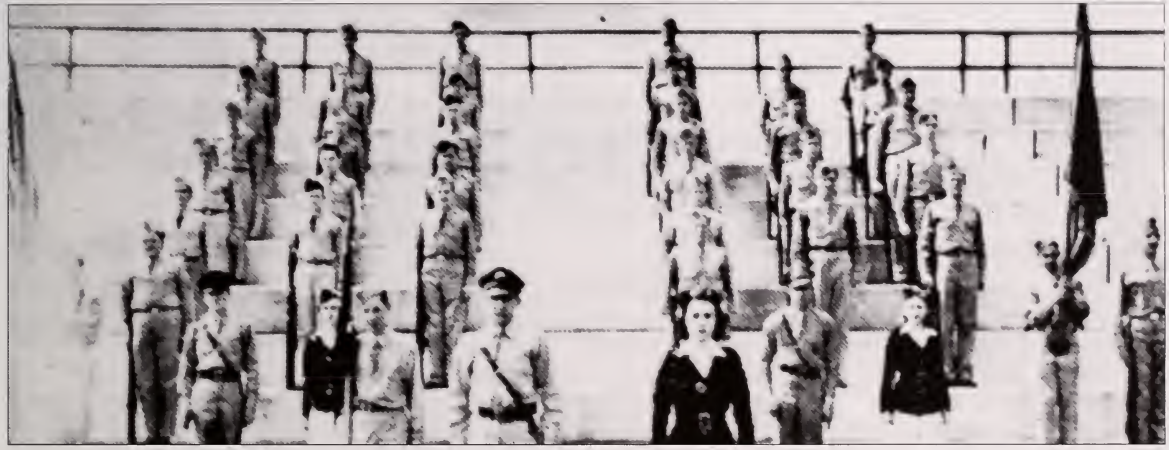
Above and lower right are believed to be some of the high school students in the ROTC program at PRC. Below, James Cosper (right) and a few of his friends pose for a picture outside Huff Hall.

The R.O.T.C. girls training corps lines up for daily inspection on the PRC campus during the military years.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

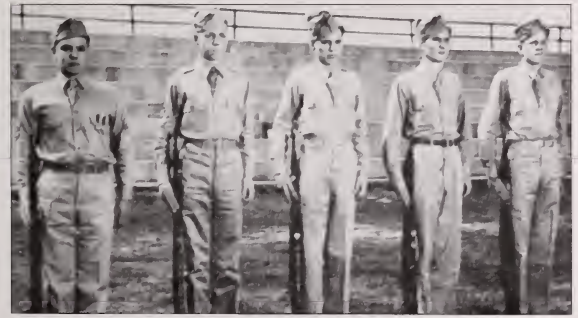
Cadet officers stand inspection in front of Huff Hall "barracks" during the military years. Former PRCC President Marvin R. White was a cadet.

A cadet blows reveille while the color guard raises the colors. This was a daily event on the PRC campus during the military years.



Company B stands at attention for their photograph for the 1939 "Critique," which was the name of the school annual in the late 1930s.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives



PRC cadets stand at attention on the old football field on campus.

U.S. Army officers and Military Department personnel inspected the troops.

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Congratulations and thank you to everyone at Pearl River Community College for a remarkable 100 years of service to the people and communities of our region.

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The Future Farmers of America Club in 1957 included the following: Front row - Gary Cooper, Elwyn Wheat, Larry Hatten, Ralph Tyner, Grady Jack White, Elby Odom, Ray Corkern, Richard Amacker, Billy Rawls, Mark Thomas, Benny Jordan, and Joe Rowell. Second row - Wayne Willoughby, Billy Moody, Ferrell Holden, Elmer Gipson, Larry Davis, Charles Amacker, David Holden, Harry Seal, Paul Bilbo, Robert Stewart, Tommy Smith, Bobby Burge, Tom Carver, Douglas Herndon, and Bill Tynes. Back row - Mr. Anderson, sponsor, David Mitchell, Jack Miller, Harry Barnett, Leroy Daughdrill, Bevon Smith, Lloyd Miller, Wendell Mitchell, Roy Wheat, Gary Stanford, Verlon Spiers, Herbert Thigpen, Wayne Cockern, Herbert Morris, Mack McGhee, Sonny Nix, J.B. Hodge and Rudolph Campbell.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

The 1954 PRC cheerleaders included from left: Barbara Bittle, Jean Baughman, Martha Elveston, Peggy Holt and Carolyn Joe Clark.

The 1957 PRC cheerleaders included from left: Peggy Willoughby, Rosemary Millinery, Gary Stoufflet, Shirley Holcomb, and Nancy Young.

Berlon Lee (pictured left) stayed in Huff Hall his sophomore year in 1954. He drove 'Ole Pearlie' to football, basketball and baseball games, band and class trips. Over the years, Pearlie became the most popular bus in PRC history.

"I drove Ole Pearlie 20,000 miles that year," said Lee. "I tell people all the time that I am probably the only student who majored in bus driving."

Lee received the Alumnus of the Year Award in 1991 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Did you know:

■ That in 1953 Garvin Howell Johnston was the first graduate of Pearl River College to become president? He served the college from 1953 until 1967 when he was nominated as the Democratic Party's candidate for State Superintendent of Education.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

The PRC campus had some excitement one night in 1955 when fire broke out in Moody Hall in the administration office, causing extensive damage. Today, the three-story building will house the Department of Fine Arts and Communication.

Members of the Dixie Drawl newspaper staff in 1959 were from left: First row - Jimmy Liams, James Gross, Frances Barnes and Milton Cuevas. Second row - Elizabeth Ann Spiers, Tecia Myrl Saucier, Billie Burkhalter, Gaye Willoughby, Martha Magee, Janice Bankston, Sybil Buckley, and Charles Ray Eaton. Standing - Jerry Lott and Sonja Hanegan.

Lamar Hall, home of the football Wildcats, was built in 1961. The two-story structure holds 60 male students and an apartment for a head resident.

Hancock Hall, built in 1953, houses the Larry L. Stanford Communication Center, which includes the public relations department, the print shop and the museum today. It was once home to the Department of Fine Arts.

Bilbo Hall, named for former governor Theo Bilbo, was a married student apartment building. It was built after the war for returning veterans and their families.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

The 1958 PRC cheerleaders included from left: Kneeling - Jacque Henly and Freddie Day. Standing - Holly Piner, Gordan Bears and Jimmie Jarrell.

The 1958 Poplarville High School cheerleaders included from left: Kneeling - Joan Watts, Becky Phillips, and Ginger White. Standing - Ginger Greer, Frances Greer and Sandra Watts.

Members of the 1956 Majorettes were from left: First row - Joan Frierson, Jo Beth Bass, Charlotte Lott, Madelyn Sinclair and Nita Von Jones. Second row - Suzanne Smith, Martha Ann Catha, Rebecca Phillips and Donna Holcomb. Back row - Gaynell Lee, Ramona Hankins, Barbara Lee, Gailya Monroe, Gloria Steel, Marilyn Rodgers and Ruby Lois Cosper.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Students who achieved Phi Theta Kappa honors in 1960 included from left: Seated - Janice Kervin, Charlotte Allen, Dickey King, president; Patricia Stuart and Georgia Faye Buckley. Standing, second row - Marcy Rushing, Betty Sue Debrow, Becky Phillips, Patsy Smith, Margaret Smith, Bonnie Page, Miss Eunice McSwain, advisor, Charlotte Watts, Betty Markette, Ann Morris, Bonney Markette and Carolyn Aultman. Back row - Joe Fortenberry, Harold Thompson, Richard Markert and James Carney.

Members of the 1958 Agricultural Club were from left: Seated - Mr. A. M. McBride, advisor, Terry Cooper, John Cooper, Ray Shaw and Ford Eastin. Standing, first row - James McGehee, Ray Hawthorne, Thomas Tolar and Clifford Ladner. Back row - Elton Raby, Danny Simmons, Doug Stewart, Tony Lott and Darris O'Quinn.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Pearl River College graduate Ann Morris' 1958 Ford Convertible provided the setting for this picture of the junior class officers for Poplarville High School. From left are: Charles Amacker, president; Sandra McLaurin, vice president; Jimmy Holden, secretary-treasurer; and Robert Earl Stewart, student council representative. Morris was a 1959 graduate of PRC.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Members of the 1968-69 Pearl River College Student Council were from left: First row - Terry Skantz, freshman class president; Sharon Monroe, secretary; Allette English, freshman representative; and Joe Pierce, president. Back row - Lynn Shattles, sophomore representative; Rollie Stafford, vice president; Louis Eaton, sophomore class president; and T.D. Holden, advisor.

Students who achieved Phi Theta Kappa status in 1970 included from left: First row - Eunice McSwain, advisor, Kenneth Weir, treasurer, Bea Williams, council representative, Kay Phillips, secretary, Sue Alexander, vice president, Charlie Sones, president, and Elizabeth Alsworth, advisor. Second row - Billy Stewart, Carol Spivey, Clara James, Melanie Blount, Judy Cook and Bill Wood. Third row - Emily Graham, Barbara Bright, Jiles Grice, Ray Adkins, Buddy Patten and Emy Williams.

These members of the 1969 Pearl River College football team ham it up for the camera one day on campus. They include from left: David Touchstone, Terry Swilley, Butch Hendrix, Newton Blount, David Stewart and Sylvan Ladner. That year, the Wildcat football team finished with a perfect 9-0 record and a state championship under head coach John Russell.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Members of the 1972-73 Pearl River College Student Council included from left: Steve Allain, sophomore class president; Libby Fornea, Craig Franklin, president; Debbie Rohr, Mike Lee, Jan Moody, Johnny Rippy and Rhonda Mitchell.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1973 Homecoming court included from left: Sophomore maids Monica Smith, Millicent Graham and Rosemary Bilbo, Queen Sandy Kilgore, freshman maids Kim Mitchell, Allison Wise and Terri Mullens. It was Pearl River College's 64th homecoming. The day began with a parade through downtown Poplarville and concluded with the football Wildcats defeating Mississippi Delta 17-14.

T.D. 'Dobie' Holden era at PRC

Year	Record
1948	6-4
1949	10-1-0
1950	6-3-1
1951	9-2
1952	9-1
1953	9-0-1
1954	6-3
1955	4-4-1
1956	9-0
1957	6-2-1

Year	Record
1958	8-2
1959	9-0-1
1960	9-1
1961	10-0
1962	6-4
1963	9-0-1
1964	7-3
1965	7-3
1966	0-10
Total	140-43-7

His teams won 7 state championships

Dobie Holden, shown with his wife, Earlora (left), died in 1986. He is a member of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

The 1961 Pearl River Wildcats won the national championship with a 10-0 record. Coached by Dobie Holden, the Wildcats outscored their opponents 446-47.

Pictured is the 1961 Pearl River Wildcat football team, which finished the season with a perfect 10-0 record, winning a state championship and finishing the year as the No. 1 team in the country. They are from left: Front row - Ed Davis, Johnny Adams, Henry Taylor, Bobby Drake, Ronnie Artigues, Alvin Doyle, Louis Stines, Michael Craft, Paul Farr, Warren Armes and Terry Fernandez. Middle row - Freddy Runte, Mack Cochran, Joe Bufkin, Robert Roper, J.E. Loicano, Larry Hunt, James Pigott, Jim Karg, Freddy Delaney, Bobby Cochran and Eldon Orgeron. Back row - Earl Whitfield, Larry Magee, James Owens, Woody Alliston, T.J. Byrd, Steve Regan, Tommy Walters, Henry Brett, Robert Young, Bill Watts and Malcomb Courtney. Not pictured are guard Troy Stockstill, head coach Dobie Holden, assistant coach John Russell and managers Jim Blakeney and Ike Burks. A picture of this team hangs in the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Jackson. Some examples of scores that year: Pearl River 70, Northwest 0; Pearl River 60, Gulf Coast 6; Pearl River 42, Jones 0; and Pearl River 44, Hinds 6.

Photo courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

1956 State champs finished with perfect 9-0 record

The 1956 Pearl River College football team finished with a 9-0 record and outscored its opponents 207-49. The team was selected to play in the Junior Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., but the State Legislature prohibited the team from playing because the opponent had black players on its roster. Members of the team included from left: First row - Eddie Rogers, Jimmy Gatwood, Wayne Dunaway, Larry Ladner, Rex Cochran, Kenneth Samples, and Bill Lety. Second row - Jack Benson, Claude Renfroe, Bo Smith, Russell Sinquefield, Mike Jung, Glynn Watts, and Buddy Braswell. Third row - George Ward, Larry Peters, Gene Barnes, Richard Russ, Buster Lee, Neil Alford, and Ben Smith. Fourth row - Bobby Housley, Wallace Delia, Phil Bonadona, Tommy Holden, Wilford Wade, Jan Adams, and Jimmy Givens. Fifth row - Jimmy Shoemake, Billy Swords, Jimmy Swords, Marshall Fortenberry, Roy Coggins, Paul Highstreet, and James Norris. Top row - Billy Bourne, Paul Smith, Tony Smith, Quinton Smith, Lawson Stephens, Ox Breeland, and Arvil Shaw. Dobie Holden was head coach and his assistants were Jack Gallagher and Lewis Murray.

Photo courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

The 1959 Wildcats finished with a 9-0-1 record, winning the state championship and claiming a 30-0 victory over Henderson County in the Hospitality Bowl. Team members included All-State players Billy Johnson, Bobby Weaver, Vernon Lindsey, Joel Smith, Joe Newton, Norman Gerald, and Paul Alexander, honorable mention All-Staters Tommy Ezell and Thomas Malone, and team members Bill Rainey, Perry Baggett, Elmer Cook, Danny Simmons, Jerry Mixon, Ames Kitchens, Wayne Polk, Jimmy Eiland, Gaberiel Skipper, Terry Davis, Thomas Willet, Larry Andrews, Earl Whitfield, Charles Amacker, Larry Hunt, Billy Miller, Nathan Farmer, Wayne Willoughby, Gene Gatwood, James Boone, Symon Hartzog, Paul Farr, Robert Walker, Gregory Mitchell, Thomas Smith, Jerrel Wilson, Emmett Smith and John Williams. Manager was Douglas Stewart. Dobie Holden was head coach. Assistants were Jack Gallagher and Lewis Murray.

The 1960 Wildcats finished with a 9-1 record, winning the state championship and claiming a 50-20 victory over San Angelo, Tex, in the Hospitality Bowl. Team members included fcrom left: First row - Warren Armes, Bobby Cochran, Gene Holifield, J.E. Loicano, Billy Miller, Alvin Doyle, Gene Gatwood, Charles Amacker, Freddy Runt, Eldon Orgeron, Reggie Frierson, Louie Stines, and Jimmy Eiland. Second row - Doug Stewart, manager; James Boone, Troy Stockstill, Robert Roper, Jim Owens, Jim Karg, James Ginn, Ames Kitchens, Freddy Delaney, Robert Young, Larry Magee, Thomas Smith, and Terry Fernandez. Third row - Greg Mitchell, Gaberiel Skipper, Symon Hertzog, George Sheely, Bill Watts, Emmitt Smith, Larry Hunt, Jerrel Wilson, Tommy Walters, Henry Brett, James Pigott, Terry Davis, Wayne Willoughby, Richard Arrington, and Tony Davis, manager. Dobie Holden was the head coach. Assistants were Jack Gallagher and John T. Russell.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

1970 Wildcats won title with 9-2 record

Members of the 1970 Pearl River Junior College state champs and their positions included offensive lineman Jimmy O'Neil, linebacker Bill Kirby, guard Charles Matherne, defensive guard Bobby Parker, tailback Dale Smith, tailback Nat Fairconnetue, back Roy Yarbrough, fullback Kim Sones of Carriere, defensive back William Redo, center Bruce Duck, guard David Lee, fullback Mike Harrison, defensive guard Wayne Smith, linebacker Charles Morgan, fullback Wash Edwards, defensive back Larry Tatum, linebacker Ronald Tynes, tackle Jerry Purvis, tackle Doug Stuart, defensive end George Payton, tackle Raymond Anderson, tackle Sherman Miller, split end Donald Bridges, linebacker Terry Swilley, quarterback Dennis Wilson, quarterback Gene Estapa, quarterback Donnie Bond, linebacker Newton Blount, guard Randy Dillon center-kicker Glenn Penton, defensive back-kicker Danny Powell, wide receiver Ray Bryant, tailback James Harvison, defensive back-wingback Len Patrick, center Bill Malone, tackle Jessie Ford, split end Tommy Young, tailback Jerry Washington, fullback Kenneth Hathorn, center Mark Lott, defensive end Bryant Miller, defensive end Van Bolden, safety Calvin White, linebacker Rucks Robinson, linebacker Lou Martensen, linebacker Ken Ethridge, defensive guard Wayne Green, guard Eugene Champaigne, defensive guard Gerald Morrow, guard Porter Soley, center Tony Stewart, and managers Richard Elam, Jimmy Bowman and Rick Grady. Left, assistant coach J.C. Arban hams it up with his 1970 quarterback Dennis Wilson of North Forrest at a team reunion. Head coach was John Russell.

PRCC Public Relations photos

1976 Wildcat state champions were 10-1

Members of the 1976 Pearl River Junior College state champs and their positions included quarterbacks Jeff Davis, Lynn Breland, Mike Magee, and Tommy Trahan, running backs James Smith, Jesse Carter, Charley Pittman, Frank Woods, Memphis McAbee, Mark Williams, Andy Robichaux, and Bill Smith, wide receivers Dodd Lee, Joey Wesley, Steve Shepard, Robert Williams and Mickey Stubbs, fullback Phil Robertson, tight ends Randy Boyette and George Killebrew, offensive linemen Charles Pigott, Frank Miller, Tony Martin, Tom Longo, Philip Fails, Johnny McGee, Winston Herndon, Robert Breland, Keith Thompson, Kevin Avin, Wayne Morgan, and Robert Holmes, defensive backs Ernie Shows, Donnie Sorrells, Ellis Spann, David Smith, and David Ray, defensive ends Paul Montgomery, Bill Stringer, Tim Lewis, James Edwards, Kim Grayson, Steve Nagy, and Chellie Smith, defensive tackles Johnny Malone, Rickey Mitchell, Vernon Powell, Clark Stuart, Keith Shelton, Ronnie Phillips, and Derrick Banks, linebackers Frank Newsome, David McInnis, Andy Robertson, Joel Hemba, Johnny Miller, and Kenny Casanova, safety Alvin Hinton and kicker Kent Milner. Head coach was J.C. Arban. Assistant coaches were Herb Morris, Harvey Seligman and David Earl Johnson. In the left photo, Coach Arban discusses strategy with team captains Mike Magee (12) and Charles Pigott (50).

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Hurricane Camille blows through the Poplarville campus

Hurricane Camille hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast Aug. 17, 1969, with all the fury of a category 5 storm. With wind gusts as high as 200 miles-per-hour, the devastation is catastrophic. On the Pearl River campus, the old football stadium (left, above) suffered extensive damage, as did faculty housing (below right) and the school library (bottom left). Damage was estimated to be more than $750,000. A clothing drive (bottom center) was held on campus to help those who lost everything. All six counties in Pearl River's district were declared disaster areas.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Every building on campus suffers some sort of damage

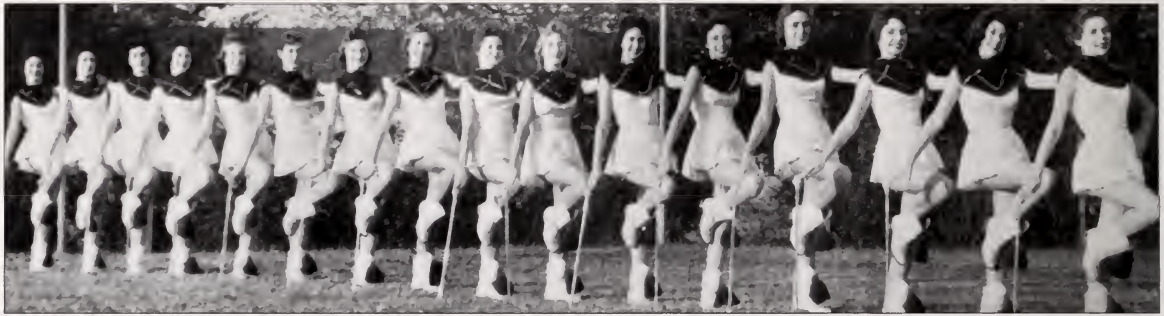
Batson Hall, a girls' dorm built in 1912, was destroyed by Camille's deadly winds. In 1970, Batson was replaced by Marion Hall in the center of campus.

Bilbo Hall, like all other buildings on campus, suffered heavy roof damage.

The scene across the Pearl River campus was one of heavy damage.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

PRCC Majorettes named String of Pearls in 1958



Members of the 1958 String of Pearls included from left: Jerry Lott, Betty McQueen, Delores Lee, Ruby Coggins, Carol Holden, Carla Neil Mitchell, Patricia Stuart, Sybil Pittman, June Henley, Nancy Gilpin, Marcy Rushing, Judy Rawls, Ginger White, Patsy Stewart, Faith Thomas and Jo Beth Bass.

Members of the 1959 String of Pearls included from left: Jo Beth Bass, Boni Day, Dianne Lee, Joann Burge, Marcie Rushing, Martha Ann Catha, Carla Nell Mitchell, Judy Stewart, Martha Sones, Becky Phillips, Billie Nelson, Patsy Stewart, Elsie Jo Lizana, Butch Greer, Margaret Williamson, Carol Holden, Mary Longino, Joann Watts, Priscilla Whittman, Lynda Paul Borne and Alice Ann Thurman.

PRCC Public Relations photos

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

Members of the 1960 String of Pearls included from left: Boni Day, Linda Paul Bourne, Louise Byrd, Martha Ann Catha, Carla Neil Mitchell, Judy Stewart, Sandra Watts, Martha Ann Sones, Elsie Jo Lizana, Butch Greer, Gaylene Skipper, Judy Dale, Edith Voss, Margaret Williamson, Carolyn Holden, Mary Longino, Gaye McQueen, Judy Stewart, Carolyn Smith and Peggy Thornhill.

Members of the 1961 String of Pearls include: Front - Patsy Stewart; Second row - Carolyn Smith, Faye Riley, Carolyn Kervin, Jo Ann Lopez, Betty Price, Jackie Garroway and Jo Ann Mitchell. Third row - Brenda Summers, Sandra Watts, Mary Lou Jermyn, Paulette Jenkins, Gaye McQueen, Carolyn Wierengo, Louise Byrd, Glenda Smith and Edith Voss.

PRCC Public Relations photos

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Members of the 1962 String of Pearls include from left: Marilyn Davis, Lana Taylor, Freda Perniciaro, Linda Hancock, Judy Sharp, Ilene Strahan, Brenda Summers, Linda Owen, Mary Lou Jermyn, Glenda Smith, Carolyn Lowe, Lana Monroe, Carolyn Kervin and Betty Price.

Members of the 1963 String of Pearls include from left: Marilyn Davis, head majorette; Linda Wheat, Cassie Rhodes, Judy Canterbury, Lana Monroe, Nancy Redmond, Irene Thomas, Judi Pennington, Linda Smith, Judy Sharpe, Ilene Strahan, Betty Smith, Linda Owen, Linda Thigpen, Diane Jordan, Mary Lee Garcia, Pam Mitchell, Leatrice Corkern, Beckey Kennedy, Norma Berthelot and Dannell Kervin. Director was Glorida Ruddick.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1964 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Paula Hariel, Debbie Harkey, Karen Seals, Irene Thomas, Sandra Williams, Sylvia Stringer, Betty Davis, Dorothy Ladner and Dannell Kervin. Back row - Evelyn Coulter, Teri Ledet, Regina Stuart, Carole Monroe, Florence Beasley, Dana Jo Burge, Lynda Smith, Ann Rester and Sheila Pearson. Sponsors were Gloria Ruddick and Donna Roberson.

Some 70 women came back to PRCC's 2007 Homecoming for the String of Pearls reunion. The half-time show included the Pearls alumni dancing to the big band tune that gave the majorette corps its name.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1965 Sring of Pearls include from left: Front row - Rosemary Morgan and Debbie Harkey. Second row - Dianne Smith, Judy McElveen, June Bowers, Dorothy Ladner, Linda Sue Stevens, Marita Lee, Regina Stuart, Dianne Young, and Mary Lou Soape. Third row - Carla Rogers, Sheila Pearson, Ann Rester, Mary Frances Polk, Linda Loftin, Connie Kilby, and Barbara Boyd. Not pictured: Irene Thomas.

Members of the 1966 Sring of Pearls include from left. Front row - Linda Sue Stevens, Debbie Bateman, Barbara Hester, Cheryl Stewart, Vesenda Beach, Brenda Parish, and Diane Franks. Back row - Betsy McSwain, Connie Kilby, Sharron Johnson, Nancy Swords, Pam Buckley, Marita Lee, Lynda Stewart and Carol McDaniel.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1967 String of Pearls include from left: First row - Brenda Parish, Ova Amacker, Ann Branch, Vesenda Beach, Carolyn Davis and Diane Franks. Second row - Sharon Monroe, Kathy Kervin, Phyllis Kee, Cynthia Bilbo, Karen Walker and Judy Sanders. Third row - Linda Hamilton, Lucy Hale, Renee McClendon, Lynda Stewart, Pamela Buckey and Nancy Swords.

Members of the 1968 String of Pearls include from left: Judy Sanders, Mimi Monti, Gwen Gandy, Paula Goff, Sharon Monroe, Pat Miller, Anna Karen Smith, Rita Harvey, Linda Hamilton, Lyda Sue White, Rene McClendon, Carol Strahan, Patsy Ladner, Linda Konkle, Judy Mitchell and Ann Branch.

Members of the 1969 String of Pearls include from left: Kay Smith, Judy Mitchell, Jackie Kerley, Patsy Ladner, Vivian Ramsey, Norma Sue McPhail, Rhonda Thames, Rita Harvey, Lyda Sue White, captain; Barbara Bright, Margaret Kilby, Carol Strahan, Judy Roberts, Glenda Hargrove, Mary Addison, Linda Konkle and Ann Sheffield.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1970 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Kay Smith, Debbie Sones, Pat Branch, Nancy Shivers, Lynne Haller, Margaret Kilby, Regina Phillips, Ann Sheffield, and Kathryn Davis. Back row - Betty Namie, Gene Ann George, Mona Harrison, Sara Scruggs, Ellen Grimsley, Brenda Archer, June Gandy, Bebe Gray, and Cindy Smith. Director of the String of Pearls was Lyda Sue White.

Members of the 1972 String of Pearls include from left: Seated on the ground - Rhonda Mitchell, Lucy Rawls, Donna Blades and Katie Kendall. Second row - Janice LaMunyon, Bernell Martinsen, Cile Watson and Sammie Keith. Third row - Nancy Smith, Donna Thornhill, Karen Kilby and JoAnn Beach. Standing in rear - Rosemary Bilbo and Jo Williams.

Members of the 1971 String of Pearls (right photo) include: June Gandy, Sarah Scruggs, Debbie Blackledge, Rhonda Mitchell, Janet LaMunyan, Janice LaMunyan, Brenda Archer, Ginger Blanks, Pamela Crosby, Judy Davis, Lucille Watson, Debbie Williams, Jo Ann Beach, Lynn Haller, Karen Kilby, Ellen Grimsley, Claire Doan, Sammie Keith and Mary Jo Williams.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1973 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Nancy Smith, Rosemary Bilbo, Donna Thornhill and Lucy Rawls. Back row - Suzanne Smith, Pam Lumpkin, Babs Bond, Melanie Thomas, Kim Mitchell, Pinkie Guess, Toppy Stieffel, Renee Slade, Jan Baker, Robin Fowler and Dianne Dearman. Director of the String of Pearls was Pam Buckley.

Members of the 1974 String of Pearls include from left: Sitting - Robin Amacker and Phyllis Williams. Kneeling - Lynn Hancock, Gail Smith, Pam Lumpkin, Babs Bond and Brenda Ferrell. Standing - Kim Mitchell, Toppy Stieffel, Lynda Payne, Pinky Guess, Renee Slade, Jan Baker and Ramona Shealy. Director of the String of Pearls was Lyda Sue Winegarden.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1975 String of Pearls include Cathy Hoadley, Frankie Daniels, Pam Davis, Cathy Lee, Sherrie Parish, Linda Thornton, Ann Marie Wagner, Cindy Blakeney, Kay Johnson, Cathy Carr, Babs Barr, Ramona Sheiley, Donna Brun, Donna Crain and Lynn Hancock.

Members of the 1977 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Wendy Lott, Christy Elliot, Judy Ladner, and Van Johnson. Second row - Kim Morris, Pat Smith, Cindy Davis, Tammy McCaskell, Hilda Bilbo and Alecia Smith. Third row - Lisa Arban, Pam Bolden, Kay Smith, Rhonda Regan, Patty Tooney, Maria Hall and Kathy Grantham.

Members of the 1976 String of Pearls include Sherry Parish, Cathy Hoadly, Chrissie Moore, Dianne Schilling, Vicki Edwards, Kay Johnson, Hilda Bilbo, Donna Crain, Martha Booke, Ann Marie Wagner, Pam Davis, Cindy Blakeney, Patty Toomey, Pam Bolden, Donna Bruin and Kathy Milton.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1978 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Judy Ladner and Margie Curry. Second row - Vicki Grantham, Tammy Smith, Rhonda Walker, Alecia Smith, Stephanie Bounds, Libby Knight, Debbie Pertuit and Christy Elliot. Third row - Mary Jane Smith, Connie Rogers, Dee Dee Boatman, Lisa Hamilton, Karen Woodyard, Rhonda Regan and Lynne Roberts. Director was Becky Askew.

Members of the 1979 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Sandra McNabb and Debbie Pertuit. Second row - Vickie Grantham, Libby Saxon, Rhonda Walker, Regina Lott, Cynthia Jones, Rebecca Ladner and Tammy Smith. Back row - Sandra Anding, Debra Fortenberry, Wendy Abrams, Zebi Beach, Lisa Hamilton, Karen Woodyard, Amy Monroe, Connie Rogers, Cherry Parker and Lissa Daley. Director was Becky Askew.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1980 String of Pearls include from left: Seated - Cindy Morris and Hope Garrett. Second row - Rose Wagner, Rebecca Ladner, Sandra McNabb, Julie Ross, Brenda Price, Eileen Rieden, Libby Saxon and Sherrie Ladner. Back row - Cynthia Jones, Lisa Daley, Debbie Fortenberry, Wendy Abrams, Pam Campbell, Missi Sones, Angel Hall and Dee Dee Strickland. Director was Becky Askew.

Members of the 1981 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Jennifer Sterling, Janette Rayborn, Chantel Effler, Melissa Thrash, Michelle Williamson, Kenya Harrington, Carol Probst, Patty Frazier, Patty Wiley, Mellissa Pearson and Rose Wagner. Second row - Tina Davis, Rhonda Mitchell, Barbie Horton, Brenda Price, Kaye Henley, Cindy Hemba, Donna Kendrick, Donna Stamp, Marlene Breaux, Julie Ross and Hope Garrett. Third row - Kembra Albarez, Carol Bilbo, Cynthia McNease, Robin Johnson, Jennifer Cagle, Karen Murphy, Lillie Haynes, Lisa Wertz, Naretha Brown, Tangy Ladner, Bernadine Necaise, Renee Bounds, Michelle Bush, Renae Smith and Debbie White. Director was Becky Askew.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1982 String of Pearls include from left: First row - Lauri Argo, Lisa Argo, Michelle Smith, Merri Ann Fortenberry, Kim Craft, Cindy Hemba, Julie Roberts, Kim Sumrall, Cynthia McNease, Renae Smith, Bernadine Necaise, Tangy Ladner and Jennifer Cagle. Second row - Recinda Ladner, Judy Criss, Susan Regan, Donna Kendrick, Mae Lang Lowe, Carol Probst, Patti Wiley, Donna Woodcock, Donna Gilmore, Dywana Dedeaux, Tina Dyar, Katherine Moree and Marlene Breaux. Third row - Julie Lott, Paula Byrd, Jena Cook, Lori Arinder, Patrica Watts, Keyna Harrington, Lillie Haynes, Colleen Seal, Jean Davenport, Charlene Byrd, Tina Davis, Melinda Kimes and Penny Morris. Director was Becky Askew.

Members of the 1983 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Paula Byrd, Angie Baston, LaRisha Smith, Paula Byrd, Tessa Roberts, Stephanie Howard and Sherry Breland. Second row - Phyllis Henry, Donna Woodock, Simone Ladner, Stephanie Roberts, Kelly Morris, Colleen Seal and Mary Boyer (co-captain). Third row - Natalie Stewart, Donna Gilmore, Donna Crosby, Stacey Seal, Kathy Moree, Julie Roberts, Recinda Ladner (captain) and Susan Regan.

Members of the 1985 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Penny Ladner, Stephanie Hebert, Sherol Henry, Rhonda Wise, Kim Bolton and Pamela Palmer. Second row - Starlett Poole, Melissa Cameron, Treasure Hughes, Monica Finley, Julie Knippers, Teel Roberts, and Jennifer Hammill. Third row - Darla White, Michelle Hayes, Karen Courtney, Lisa Nation, Stacey Breland, Tammy Neimeyer, Deanna Davis, Cathy Alliston, Tammy Smith and Michelle Catoire. Not pictured: Tilly Lymon, Vicki Powell and Jean Graham.

Members of the 1984 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Kathy Wilson (co-captain), Stephanie Howard, Julie Bounds, Jackie Huck, Barbara Barnes, Shawn Sherlock, Aundriea Allen and Pamela Jo Palmer. Second row - Phyllis Henry, Darla White, Gina Seymour, Jennifer Hammill, Betty Jo McClendon, Monica Finley, Michelle Jackson, Mary Boyer (captain), LaRisha Smith and Kristi Staten. Third row - Morticia Lymon (co-captain), Theresa Fuller, Michelle Hayes, Beth Davis, Debbie McNabb, Camela Caruso, Stacey Breland, Pamela Caruso, Terry Smith, Melissa King and Stephanie Roberts.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1986 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Michelle McCalla, Missie Cameron, Valerie Moran, Karen Courtney, Sue Franklin, Deana Davis, Lynn Drury and Robyn Douglas. Second row - Martha Scott, Tanya Wilson, Treasure Hughes, Penny Ladner, Lori Seals, Lisa Batson, Michelle Kohnki and Julie Knippers. Back row - Starlett Poole, Paulette Strahan, Rhonda Harper, Becky Nail, Tonya Jackson, Traci Harrington, Cathy Alliston and Tammy Smith.

Members of the 1988 String of Pearls include from left: Seated - Team captains Carol Thigpen and Melanie McNabb. Other members of the squad include Bea Bennett, Allison Blades, Jenny Gibson, Tiffany Renfroe, Lakeisha Bolton, Michelle Harbeson, Kim McClinton, Teresa Craft, Ceci Douglas, Tammy Jenny, Tammy Speights, Tara Whitfield, Christina Hatten, Roxanne Wise, Tara Bailey, Rhonda Bilbo, Vicki Seligman, Paula Magee, Dana Dearmann, Kim Koenig, Jennifer Bailey and Yvette Catoire.

Members of the 1987 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Rhonda Harper (captain), Janet Turner, Bea Bennett, Kim Koenig, Yvette Catoire, Ellen Clark and Lou Seals. Back row - Paulette Strahan, Melanie McNabb, Ceci Douglas, Heather Pigott, Carole Thigpen, Shannon Cagle, Lynn Keith, Robin Douglas (captain) and Lynn Drury. Not pictured: Lisa Lott, Demetrie Jones, Sue Franklin, Tina Wallace, Martha Scott and Tanya Wilson. Director was Connie Holmes.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1989 String of Pearls include from left: Front - Christina Hatten. Second row - Laurie Batson, Shenna Gerald, LaKeisha Bolton, Angela Smith, Anita Trotter, Allison Penton, Amy Holliday, Tonya Burge, Teresa Craft, Tanya Boyd and Tonya Calhoun. Back row - Wendy Niemeyer, Kathy Kindred, Vicki Seligman, Cindy Hatten, Vicki Beason, Michelle Dewease, Christy Broom, Sonya Malley, Carrie Spiers, Dana Knippers, Tammy Speights and Nicole Wells.

Members of the 1990 String of Pearls include, listed alphabetically: Vicki Beason, Kristi Breland, Christy Broom, Sissy Byrd, Tracie Dean, Angie Dickens, Whitney Dupont, Shelly Fayard, Shenna Gerald, Lisa Goubler, Rhonda Henry, Heidi Hess, Teresa Housley, Dana Knippers, Melanie Lossett, Stacey Lott, Julie Morris, Christy Necaise, Cherilyn Owen, Stephanie Saulters, Stacy Smith, Carrie Spiers, Tiffany Steen, Susan Stephens, Anita Trotter and Nicole Wells.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1991 String of Pearls include, listed alphabetically: Vicki Beason, Lisa Clark, Debra Crawford, Dana Daniels, Kristi Daniels, Angie Dickens, Robin Graves, Vicki Hogan, Teresa Housley, Maria Jarvis, Lisa Kitazaki, Brenda Ladner, Portia Lopez, Angela McIntyre, Cherilyn Owen, Sheri Rhodes, Jamie Saul, Susan Stephens, Stacy Smith, Misha Summers, Anita Trotter and Erin Welsh.

Members of the 1992 String of Pearls include: Lisa Kitazaki (captain), Dana Daniels (captain), Sheila Daley, Amy Jones, Jana Stewart, Lisa Clark, Sheri Rhodes, Erin Welsh, Reagan Carbo, Jennifer Stockstill, Candi Deen, Mary Moore, Melissa Stewart, Angi Buckley, Julie Stringer, Paula Merritt, Missy Hardin and Alyson Corkern.

Members of the 1993 String of Pearls include: Seated from left - Captains Lisa Clark and Robin Jenkins. First row - Jennifer Giaise, Stacey Dixon, Candi Deen, Ashley Thompson, Janna Stewart, Summer Young, Tiffany Giaise and Jaime Johnson. Back row - Eva Michael, Rene Harvey, Cinnamon McNair, Anna Bales, Jennifer Lucas, Kimberly Stockstill, Becky Perry, Tiffany Smith, Shana Scarborough and Jenny Stockstill.

Members of the 1994 String of Pearls include from left: Seated - Captains Robyn Jenkins and and Summer Young. Second row - Munshionda Mingo, Amy Morris, Ashley Thompson, Marina Lewis, Charo Ford, Wendi Bryan, Joni Kihneman and Rondesha Acker. Third row - Eve McMichael, Requita Magee, Tiffany Sullivan, Laura Miley, Tiffany Smith, Kyla Burke, Shana Scarborough and Dana Short. Fourth row - Melissa Moore, Cinnamon McNair, Anna Bales, Angie McCraney, Kim Stockstill, LeAnne Jones, Jessica Smith and Kellie Lee.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1995 String of Pearls include from left: Front - Captains Jessica Smith and Angi McCraney. Second row - Charo Ford, Wendi Bryan, Lee Ann Jones, Terry Lynn White, Kyla Burke and Danea Saliba. Back row - Cassie Forte, Elizabeth Talley, Mandy Cox, Misha Brown, Shanna Spiers, Robyn Ford, Jeanie Holmes, Leah Burrow, Renee Laib and Tangy Smith. Not pictured: ReQuita Magee.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 1996 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Misha Brown, Cassie Forte, Robyn Ford, Shanna Spiers, Terri Lynn White, Elizabeth Talley, and Tangy Smith (captain). Second row - Aida Medley, Gini Tabor, Lori Lossett, Oundria Jones, Millicent Stafford, Allison Burt, Beth Minter and Daphne Richmond. Back row - Amy Polk, Nadia Lewis, Erica Agerton, Robin Lowe, Misty Hodnett, Kristy Gibson, Heather Stevens, Mary Jessica Grant and Danielle Graham. Director was Connie Holmes.

Members of the 1997 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Aida Medley and Oundria, captains. Second row - Millicent Stafford, Allison Burt, Misty Hodnett, Mary Jessica Grant and Lori Lossett. Third row - Kimberly Kopf, Emily Wallace, Hope DuPont, Lauren Magee, Stephanie Chambliss, Adrienne Varnado and Elizabeth Dickerson. Fourth row - Alisha Smith, Kara Peterson, Chastity Ladner, Laura Breaux, Maria Broome, Jeanne Bufkin and Stephanie Spiers.

Members of the 1998 String of Pearls include from left: By rows - Tiffany Bowers, Bridget Burris, Chandra Myers, Hope Dupont, Alisha Smith, Anna Wallace, Laura Swilley, Jessica Whitfield, Emily Wallace, Lauren Magee, Sarah Sibley, Leah Collins, Kacey Edwards, Ashley Reid, Erin Campbell, Casey Stewart, Stacey Ellingson and Lisa Lee.

Members of the 1999 String of Pearls include from left: Front row - Janice Burke, Kacey Edwards and Casey Stewart. Second row - Tiffany Bowers, Sarah Sibley, Anna Wallace and Bridget Burris. Third row - Connie Burge, Chandra Myers, Angelia Mayo, Cassie Malley, Laura Swilley and Stacey Ellingson. Back row - Leah Collins, Alana Whitehead, Tiffany Vines, Jessica Whitfield, Jennifer Hall, Erin Kirtland and Christine Cloer.

The alto saxophone section solos during the 1998 Spirit of the River halftime show. They are, from left, Jack Craven, Brittney McGregor, Ryan Mayer, Hunter Braswell, Stephanie Broome and Annie McKay.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 2000 String of Pearls include Idus Arcement, Kandace Ard, Alicia Badon, Connie Burge, Jennifer Burkett, Candace Cagle, Christine Cloer, Leah Collins, Kandace Cooper, Roxanne Fletcher, Jennifer Hall, Erin Kirkland, Candace Lindsley, Jennifer Rawls, Afton Stanford, Casey Stewart, Alana Whitehead and Jessica Whitehead.

Members of the 2001 String of Pearls dance team under the direction of Archie Rawls, include from left: Front row - Roxanne Fletcher, co-captain, Alison Pigott, captain, and Idus Arcement, co-captain. Second row - Julianne Robertson, Rachelle Youngblood, Candace Lindsley, Candace Cagle, Kandace Cooper, Afton Stanford, Brooke Burge and Jennifer Hollingsworth. Back row - Jessica Ladner, Stephanie Peters, Jessica Melville, Kelley Lee, Natalie Woods, Mandi Landry, Danielle Wheat, Kandi Tims, Leslie Lee and Jodi Tate.

Members of the 2002 String of Pearls dance team under the direction of Archie Rawls, include from left: Front row - Kandace Cooper, co-captain, Danielle Wheat, captain, and Jessica Melville, co-captain. Second row - Sarah Stone, Jodi Tate, Kandi Tims, Kelley Lee, Leslie Lee, Carrie Roche and Brooke Hollingsworth. Back row - Keri Burge, Paige Bennett, Ashley Peterson, Adrienne Pylant, Sarah Richardson, Elisabeth Baylis, Jennifer Patterson, Layne Forbes and Sarah Bilbo.

Members of the 2003 String of Pearls dance team under the direction of Archie Rawls include from left: Front row - Adrienne Pylant, Katie Bersuder (co-captain), Jennifer Patterson (captain), and Sarah Richardson. Second row - Layne Forbes, Nicole Gwaltney, Delana Davenport, Miranda Fenner, Leslie Williams, Lindsey Frierson, Kayla Bates and Sarah Bilbo. Third row - Ashley Lee, Courtney Peterson, Krystal Kuhlmann, Katie Seal, Shira Stubbs, Jennifer Jacques, Marrina Ladner, Haley Mills and Kimberly Ray.

PRCC Public Relations photos

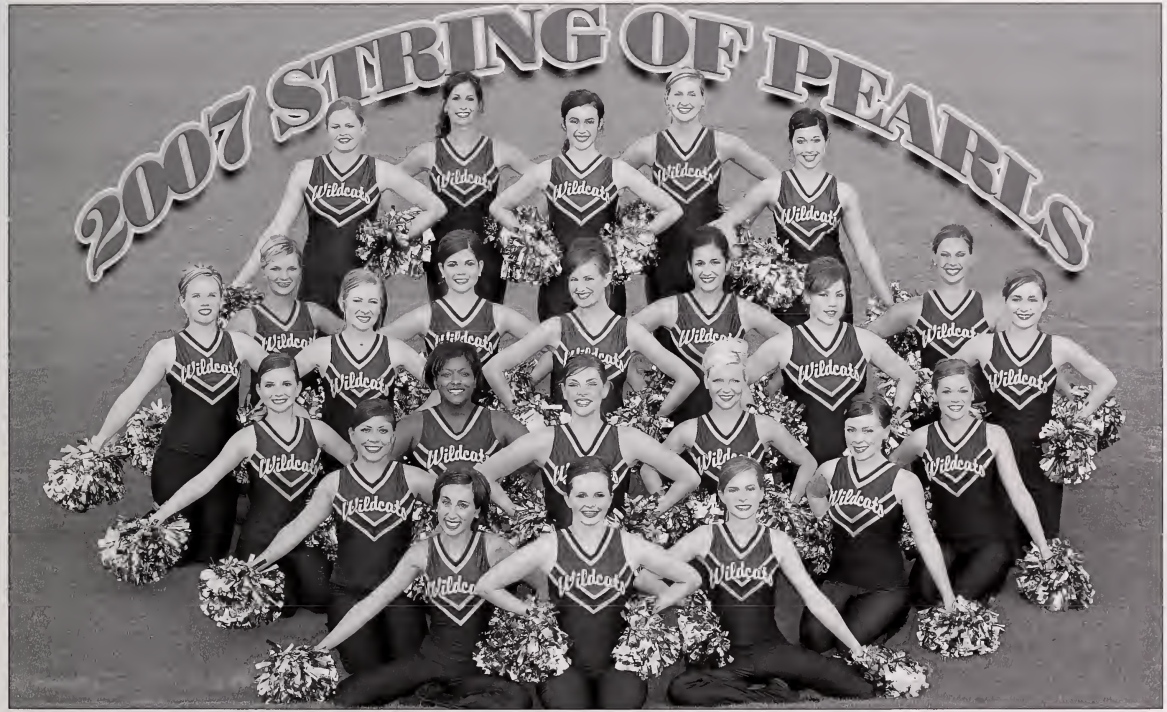
Members of the 2004 String of Pearls dance team under the direction Archie Rawls, include from left: Front row - Katie Bersuder, captain. Second row - Shira Stubbs and Sarah McLaney, co-captain. Third row - Whitney Williams, Jackie Magee and Jennifer Jacques. Fourth row - Miranda Fenner, Amanda Martin, Sarah Richardson, Katie Seal and Gabrielle Lewis. Fifth row - Ashley Lee, Melinda Dittman, Melissa Tillery, Liz Aquilard, Shelley Pittman, Kayla Fortenberry, Julie Morse, Shanna Griffen, Courtney Peterson, Starr Montgomery and Kayla Bates.

Members of the 2005 String of Pearls dance team under the direction of Archie Rawls include from left: Front row - Natalie Adams (co-captain), Lauren Griffith (captain) and Shira Stubbs (co-captain). Second row - Courtney Peterson, Sarah McLaney, Kayla Fortenberry and Ashley Lee. Third row - Brittney Bynum, Whitney Williams, Shelley Pittman, Julie Morse and Melinda Dittman. Fourth row - Victoria Ferril, Felicia Ross, Talley Martin, Kimberly Jones, Emily Jopes and Kelly Little. Fifth row - Julie Williams, Leila Fortenberry, Kim Woodfield, Alyson Clark, Bonnie Myers, Natalie LaHaye and Marissa Turcott.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Members of the 2006 String of Pearls under the direction of Archie Rawls and coach/choreographer Kara Fleming include from left: Front - Marissa Turcotte, captain. Second row - co-captains Rachel Selzer and Natalie Adams. Third row - Mellisa Akers, Allison Bynum and Chelsey Neal. Fourth row - Becca Bradshaw, Allie Stockstill, Felicia Ross and Courtney Ginn. Fifth row - Danielle Lewis, Amanda Farmer, Angela Romero, Talley Martin and Amy Keene. Back row - Whitney Jackson, Kim Woodfield, Samantha Mitchell, Bonnie Myers, Meagan Frierson, Caroline MacDonald, Loren Burke and Sarah Dearman. In the photos below, the 2006 Pearls perform during halftime of a football game.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives



Members of the 2007 String of Pearls dance team, under the direction of Kara Fleming, include from left: Front - Marissa Turcotte, captain. Second row - co-captains Rachel Selzer and Courtenay Ginn. Third row - Mellisa Akers, Katie Morris, lieutenant, and Allie Stockstill, lieutenant. Fourth row - Kristina Gonzales, Kellye Bolar, Sunni Smith, Chelsey Neal. Fifth row - Danielle Lewis, Meagan Frierson, Natalie Smith, Desiree Chatman, and Rachel Miller. Sixth row - Haley Spence, Robyn Buehler, Caitlin Delcambre' and Elisabeth Dearmin. Seventh row - Heather Richardson, Sadie Penton and Nikki Eden. Back row - Whitney Penton and Allison Bynum.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

Pearl River Community College's Spring 2002 String of Pearls won the college division in the 2002 United States Dance/Drill Team Championships held at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla. The Pearls won both categories in jazz and pom-pons.
The team includes from left: Front row - Candace Lindsley of Hattiesburg, Idus Arcement of Picayune, Alison Pigott (captain) of Picayune, Roxanne Fletcher of Waveland and Ashley Foster of Bay St. Louis. Middle row - Leigh Ann Smith of Picayune, Brooke Burge of Poplarville, Leslie Lee of Picayune, Jodi Tate of Picayune and Candace Mooney of Carriere. Back row - Jessica Melville of Bay St. Louis, Lindsey Miller of Picayune, Mandy Landry of Picayune, Natalie Woods of Picayune and Danielle Wheat of Picayune.
Said director Archie Rawls, Fine Arts chairman at PRCC, "We scored superior in all categories. This was a really great accomplishment for our program and for the school. We received some great exposure from this competition. These girls brought the level of performance to national standards. What this performance does is show people that we can compete on the national level. And that should help us to attract good dancers for our program."

Pearl River Community College's 2003 Spring Semester
String of Pearls dance team won the American All-Star State College Division championship. The String of Pearls are under the direction of Archie Rawls, Fine Arts chairman at PRCC, and Kara Fleming, coach and choreographer.
Members of the team include from left: Front row - Jessica Melville of Bay St. Louis, Leslie Lee of Picayune, Candace Mooney of Carriere, Lindsey Frierson of Carriere and Lauren Hillery of Picayune. Second row - Mandi Spiers of Carriere, Jennifer Patterson of Waveland, Leslie Williams of Poplarville, Summer Smith of Picayune and Lindsey Miller of Carriere. Back row - Jodi Tate of Picayune, Corbett Sheffield of Diamondhead, Elisabeth Baylis of Petal, Mandi Landry of Picayune and Danielle Wheat of Picayune, team captain.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The Spring 2006 String of Pearls dance team at PRCC had a busy and productive semester. The Pearls participated in dance team competitions on the state and national level. They brought home the State Championship Collegiate Dance Team trophy for the fifth consecutive year at the American All-Star Competition. Later, they traveled to Denton, Texas, for the American Dance and Drill Team International Championship competition at the University of North Texas. Some 160 teams representing 30 states and three countries participated. The Pearls proved they were among the nation's elite community college dance teams by winning the Collegiate large ensemble National Championship and finishing in fourth place overall in the college division. The String of Pearls are under the direction of Archie Rawls and are led by Coach/Choreographer Kara Fleming. They include from left: Front row - Ciarra Gunn of McNeill and Sunni Smith of Poplarville. Second row - Sarah McLaney (captain) of Carriere, Natalie Smith of Poplarville and Chastity McLemore (co-captain) of Picayune. Third row - Felicia Ross of Kiln, Lauren Griffith of Prentiss, Bonnie Myers of Waveland and Brittany Bynum of Picayune. Back row - Natalie Adams of Carriere, Emily Jopes of Picayune, Leila Fortenberry of Purvis, Marissa Turcotte of Waveland and Ashley Ladner of Waveland.

The Spring 2007 String of Pearls dance team at PRCC team took first place in the pom-pon dance competition and in choreography at the Southern Regional Collegiate Championship in Westwego, La. The squad won first place in the college division pom-pon and jazz dance categories for the sixth consecutive year at the Mississippi Dance and Drill Team Championship. The String of Pearls also won the pom-pon and jazz first place awards at the Power Dance National Championship in Galveston, Texas. Kara Fleming is coach for the String of Pearls. Members of the String of Pearls for spring were from left: front row - Melissa Akers, pom-pon co-captain Marissa Turcotte, captain Felicia Ross, jazz co-captain Sunni Smith and Allison Stegall. Middle row - Bonnie Myers, Talley Martin, Natalie Smith, Rachel Selzer and Allie Stockstill. Back row - Ciaria Gunn, Meagan Frierson, Courtenay Ginn, Ashley Ladner, Krista Thomas and Natalie Adams.

PRCC Public Relations photos

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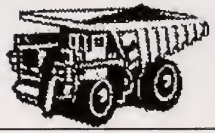

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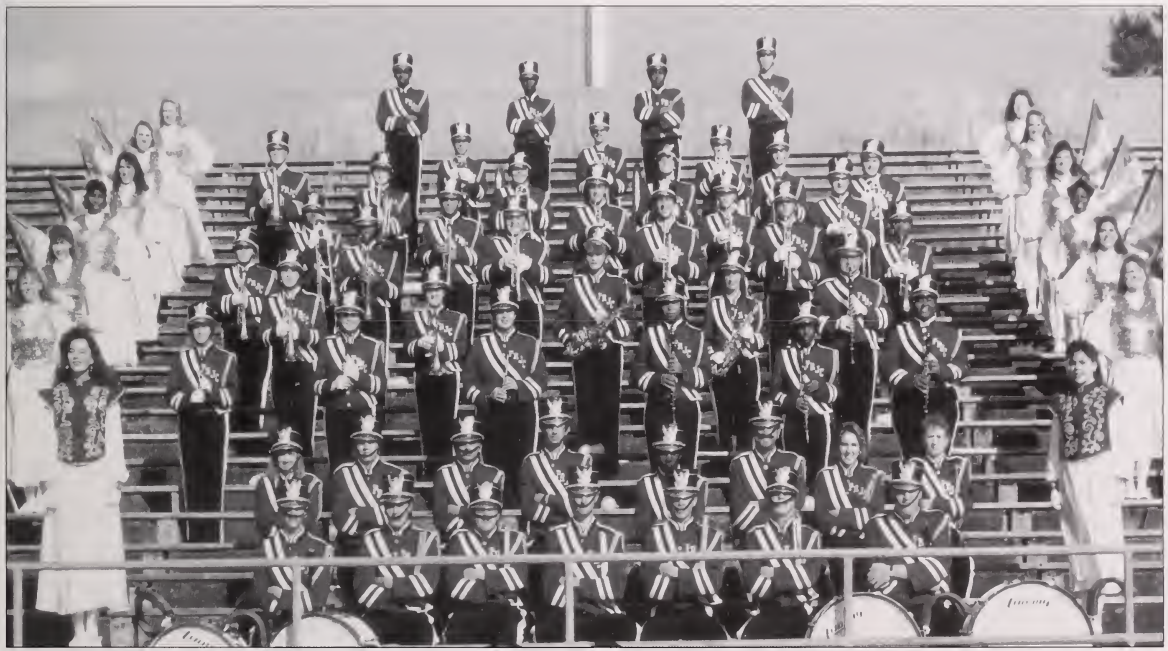
Members of the 1968-69 Pearl River College Band included: Signal drum major Marilyn Boleware. Wayne Alford, James Gipson, Brent Harrell, James Herrin, Charles McClendon, Keith Malone, Larry Martin, Robert Morris, Billy Joe Rouse, Robert James Wheat, James Wickton, Bobby Joseph Wilson, Adrian Wood, Michael Beane, Garon Carr, Robert Dreyor, Michael Forbes, Elizabeth Hatton, Beverly Holden, Stephanie Jo Jarvis, William Danny Kerley, David Lee, Eungene Lee, Brenda Lott, Roger McKenzie, Leathron Travis Moore, William Moore, Warren Louis Moran, John Otts, Buddy Pateen, Kay Phillips, Patrick Poole, Gayle Pouncey, Shirley Rowley, Ronnie Sibley, Howell Mason Sistrunk, Charlie Sones, Keith Speirs, Lyndal Watkins, Nolan West, Karen Sue Wood.

PRCC Public Relations photos



Members of the 1991-92 Spirit of the River included: Drum Majors Robyn Sampson, left, and Chellie Thames. Drum line is Jennifer Spiers, Shannon Walker, Denise Frierson, Becky Fleming, Rusty Sharp, Mitchell Jackson, R.C. McMorrow, Randy Graves, Jamie Strickland, Andy Gennin, John Trahan, Vic Cerniglia, Matt Heitzman, Lonnie Guttierez and Larry Rouse. Band and color guard are Kelly Ashley, Michael Atkins, Nick Barrack, Stephen Barrett, Daryl Boyd, Shannon Cain, Damon Carpenter, Tina Charles, Carmen Cobb, Demetric Cooley, Melissa Davis, Barrie Dawkins, Dean Edwards, Stephanie Engle, Patrick Evans, Jeremy Farve, Jennifer Ford, Stephanie Fortenberry, Alicia Griffith, Angela Holmes, Christa Hughes, Shakira Jackson, Tara Johnson, Jerry Kihlken, David Lafferty, Russell Lawler, Nancy Lee, Tammy Mayo, Dee Dee McArn, Jon McCartney, Sandy McCarty, Larry Miller, Cassandra Mills, Kim Necaise, Jason Nixon, Gretchen Parker, Tabitha Patch, James Rogers, Eric Sanchez, Tiffany Saucier, Billy Saunders, Shane Seal, Judy Simmons, Felechia Smith, Joey Smith, Pearl Smith, Susan Sones, Georgia Spence, Allison Strahan, Anita Uzel, Cathy Walker, Bradley Williams, Jackie Williamson and Allan Windham. Names of the 1991 String of Pearls are on page 64.

PRCC Public Relations photo

The Spirit of the River marching band at Pearl River annually marches in Christmas parades throughout the college's six-county district. Above, the 2007 band marches in the Sumrall Christmas Parade. Below, the band marches in the 1988 governor's inaugural parade in downtown Jackson. The Spirit of the River is often invited to participate in parades throughout Mississippi.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The Spirit of the River, some 150 strong, marched in the State Street Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown Chicago in 2003. Since that time, the Spirit of the River has made bowl appearances in Dalton Defenders Bowl in Coffeeville, Kan., and the Pilgrim's Pride Bowl in Mount Pleasant, Texas. Directors of the Spirit of the River are Dr. Kyle Hill and Archie Rawls.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The Spirit of the River marching band has been going for many, many years. Top left, the band marched in the governor's inaugural parade 20 years ago in downtown Jackson. The band is led by drum majors Stephanie Cummings (left) of Oak Grove and Virginia Breland of Petal. Top right, the band, led by the drum section, marches in the 1987 Homecoming parade in downtown Poplarville. Bottom left, the band marches in the Hattiesburg Christmas parade. Each year the band marches in Christmas parades throughout the six-county district. The band, under the direction of Archie Rawls, was led by drum major Teresa Fuller. The four snare drummers behind her are, from left, Ken Clemts, William Guidry, Andy Wesley and Tommy Bridge. The band showed steady growth throughout the 1980s under Rawls, reaching some 130 members in 1989.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Each year the Spirit of the River band spends countless hours preparing their shows for the year. Like the football team, the band reports each August for a week of camp and practices every day for two hours. Above left, trumpeter John Bell of Columbia performs at halftime of a 1987 game. Above right, band director Archie Rawls and members of his 1980 band make preparations for a pep rally in White Coliseum. Botton left, 1989 drum majors Shannon Bynum (left) and Kristi Morris, both of Purvis, watch the football game. Bottom right, the 1984 band's color guard wore tuxedo shirts and bowties for their performance. Pictured are from left: Angelia Dickens, Anna Williams, Sheila Baxter, Richard Robbins, Yvette Thomas, Shannon Robinson, and Barbara Headley.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Sports Hall of Fame

The Pearl River Community College Sports Hall of Fame began in 1988. Members of the first class of inductees, pictured right at the Homecoming ceremony, included Forrest Ball, Frank Branch, E.W. "Goat" Hale, Toni Byrd, Willie Heidelberg, Coach Dobie Holden, J. Larry Ladner and A.L. (Jack) Read. The 1989 class: Bobby Jelks, Lewis Murray Jr., Bobby Weaver and Jerrel Wilson. The 1990 class: Lonnie Anderson, Buddy Madison, LaRue Saulters and Alton Shell. The 1991 class: J.E. Loiacano and Bill Mitchell. The 1992 class: George Bilbo Sr., Jean Pigott Bourne and Roland Ladner. The 1993 class: Nate Fairconnetue, Douglas Holcomb and Richard Young. The 1994 class: Doug Daniels, David Hanberry and Robert Young. The 1995 class: David Earl Johnson, Antrice McGill and Darryl Stephen Regan. The 1996 class: Bob Jennings, Todd Russell and Calvin Triplett. The 1997 class: Randall Collette, Louis McKissack and Dudley Miller. The 1998 class: Gene Gatwood, Jimmy Gatwood and George stevens. The 1999 class: Garland Parish, Tony Walker and Dennis Wilson. The 2000 class: Harvey Seligman, Tommy Walters and Larry Whigham. The 2001 class: Joe Drennan, Conlee Verdun and Mike Waits. The 2002 class: Bobby Conerly, James Cosper, Rosario Drago and Levon Ezell. The 2003 class: Howard Anderson, Billy Sue Stringer Coachran John Kirke and Wendell Magee. The 2004 class: Charzes Silas Flowers, Dan Mastrean, Robert "Arab" Morris and John Russell.

The 2005 class: Adam Breerwood, B.A. (Bama) Falls, Paul Highstreet and Earl (Mutt) Watts. The 2006 class: Phil (Doc) Hudson, John McElroy, Joe Newton and Larry Stanford. The 2007 class: Charles Pigott, Ben Smith, Frances (PeeWee) Gipson and Claude Renfroe.

The 1992 class: George Bilbo Sr., Jean Pigott Bourne and Roland Ladner.

The 1993 class: Nate Fairconnetue, Douglas Holcomb and Richard Young.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The 1996 class: Todd Russell, Bob Jennings, and Calvin Triplett.

The 2006 class: Phil (Doc) Hudson, John McElroy, Joe Newton and Larry Stanford.

The 2007 class: Ben Smith, Frances (PeeWee) Gipson, Claude Renfroe and Charles Pigott.

MACJC Sports Hall of Fame

In 2007, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) approved the formation of the Mississippi Community/Junior College Sports Hall of Fame. The initial group of honorees was inducted in 2007 at Co-Lin Community College.

Honorees from Pearl River Community College included the late legendary head coach Thomas "Dobie" Holden (1948-66) and former star athletes Willie Heidelberg (1968-70) and Antrice McGill Walker (1987-89).

The 2008 inductees from PRCC were Tommy Walters (1960-61) and the late Jerrel Wilson (1959-60).

The 2007 class: Dr. Tom Holden (representing the late Dobie Holden), Willie Heidelberg, athletic director Richard Mathis (representing Antrice McGill Walker), and PRCC President William Lewis.

The 2008 class: Tommy Walters, Coach Tim Hatten (representing the late Jerrel Wilson), and PRCC President William Lewis.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Alumni are special at PRCC

Chapters host events throughout the year, money raised goes toward scholarships

PRCC alumni D.R. Davis (left) and Byron Wells participate in an alumni golf tournament. Davis taught marketing at PRCC for six years before being elected chancery clerk in Pearl River County in 1980. He was part of the PRCC sports broadcast team for 25 years before his death in October 2006.

Jim Walt (right) and Greg McMahon take a break from baseball practice in 1982. Today, Walt is president and chief executive officer of Valley Services, Inc., the current food service provider for PRCC.

The Forrest-Lamar alumni chapter hosts an annual fish fry every fall at South Mississippi Electric Power Association in Hattiesburg.. Left photo, from left, Jeff Farris, Sidney Malone and Clint Tapper take part in the fun. Right photo, from left, PRCC faculty members Lindsay Lousalot, Tara Rouse and Camille Soulier have a good time.

The Marion-Jefferson Davis alumni chapter, the largest of all the chapters, hosted a steak dinner in 2007 in place of the usual fish fry.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The Pearl River County alumni chapter was launched in 2006 with a cookout on campus. Dub Herring helped auction off some gifts as part of the fundraiser.

The Hancock County chapter's annual fish fry in Waveland attracts a big crowd of alumni.

Members of the Marion-Jefferson Davis alumni chapter prepare the fish for a cookout at the Columbia Water Park.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The classes of 1934-42 enjoyed their annual reunion at Homecoming in 2007. They are, from left: Front row - Alyce and M.H. Castleberry of Poplarville, Frances Chisholm of Poplarville, Margaret Morgan of Laurel, Polly Miles of Lexington, Okla., and Kay Seaton. Back row - Development Foundation Director Ernie Lovell, Ray Mitchell of Picayune, Betty and Buddy Madison of Slidell, La., Cal Seaton, PRCC President William Lewis and former Alumni Association coordinator Clay Sweet.

Congratulations To Pearl River Community College On A Centennial of Excellence.

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May your next 100 years be even brighter.

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Members of the 1946 Majorettes include Ann Rogers, Dorothy Morrison, Ruby Smith Betty Jo Breland, Jimma Toots Byrd and Virginia Springer. The seventh member of the group is unidentified.

PRCC Public Relations photos

PRCC instructor's child wins 'Beautiful Baby' search

PRCC Electrical Technology instructor Tony Oldmixon of Picayune is the father of America's most beautiful baby.

His son, two-year-old Luke Old-mixon, won the "Live with Regis and Kelly's Most Beautiful Baby Search" in February 2006.

The show's producers and Parents magazine editors chose Luke as one of the top ten most beautiful babies out of approximately 100,000 entrants.

The top ten babies were announced on the show, and viewers had the opportunity to vote for the five finalists on the show's website. Luke was one of the five finalists.

The winner from the five finalists was chosen by Parents magazine and "Live" producers. Luke was chosen as the national winner.

PHOTO: From left are "Live with Regis and Kelly" co-host Kelly Ripa, Parents Magazine editor-in-chief Sally Lee, Tony Oldmixon, holding Luke, and Toni Michelle Oldmixon.

Some random photographs from years past at PRC

PRCC President William Lewis (right) talks with Dr. Thomas J. Malone on campus during the 2007 Homecoming. Malone, a 1960 PRCC graduate, is the former president and chief operating officer for Millikin and Company, the largest privately owned manufacturing concern in the world. Malone played football at PRCC and was valedictorian of his 1960 graduating class.

When it comes to family ties to Pearl River, the Grant family of Poplarville is hard to beat. From left, with their graduation year in parenthesis, are Melvin Grant (1975), Lynn Grant Stringer (1977), John A. Grant Sr., who taught at PRC from 1953-79, Judy Grant Pope (1967) and Dr. John A. Grant Jr., (1966), current vice president for instruction at the school. Also, Dr. Grant's son, Brennan, graduated in 1996 and daughter, Mary Jessica, graduated in 1998 and was the school's homecoming queen. Coupled with his dad's 26 years at the college, Dr. Grant and his dad have worked 55 years at the college.

Hammill, Sones worked at PRCC for combined 66 years

Pearl River Community College isn't the same following the retirements of Dr. Miller Hammill, dean of student affairs, and Dr. James C. Sones, dean of vocational-technical affairs.

Dr. Sones (right) retired in December 2002, and Dr. Hammill (left) retired June 30, 2003. They took with them 66 years of service to Mississippi's first community college. They also took with them many memories of the thousands of students they have helped down through the years.

"Witnessing students coming to PRCC with very few skills and leaving with skills to enter the workforce or continue their education and become good productive citizens is one thing I am proud of," said Dr. Sones. "There was also the completion of the Technology Center (1989) in Poplarville and the Allied Health Center (1992) in Hattiesburg."

Added Dr. Hammill, "I have had a very enjoyable and rewarding tenure as dean of student affairs at Pearl River. I have had a few disappointments along the way, but I am happy that the Lord has allowed me to work this long with these people and the students at Pearl River. I feel good about my decision to retire."

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Daniels' death shocks campus

On Monday morning, Oct. 2, 2000, the Pearl River Community College family awakened to the news that athletic director and head football coach Keith Daniels had died at the age of 52 of a brain hemorrhage.

PRCC coaches, players, faculty and students were not alone in their grief. Daniels'' death touched hearts and souls all over Mississippi and beyond.

"Coach Daniels made winners out of people," said PRCC President William Lewis. "In the game of life, he was a true champion. We are a better institution for having known him."

On Oct. 4, they all said good-bye to Coach Daniels in a memorial service in M.R. White Coliseum. He was buried in New Zion Baptist Church Cemetery in his hometown of Monticello.

More than 600 people attended the service, including many current and past football coaches from the University of Southern Mississippi, Ole Miss and Mississippi State, as well as former PRCC players who played for him.

"Coach Daniels showed us how to be men," said Larry Thompson, a sophomore linebacker from Bassfield. "He taught all of us what PRCC stood for. The P was for pride, the R was for respect, the C was for class and the C was for character. Those are the things he wanted us to be like everyday."

Larry Stanford was director of public relations at Pearl River for 30 years before his retirement in 2000. He was also the first radio voice of the Wildcats.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Brownstone gives PRCC $4.75 million

Ethel Holden Brownstone

A former Pearl River College student and Poplarville area native gave PRCC $3.75 million - the largest cash gift ever presented to a Mississippi community or junior college in 2003.

The late Ethel Holden Brownstone, one of 11 children and the daughter of James Houston and Florence Holden of the White Sand community, left the money to PRCC in her will. She died on Oct. 17, 1996. She was the wife and widow of Lucien Brownstone, a resident of New York City.

Lucien Brownstone was in the garment business and owned 26 men's clothing stores around the country. The Brownstones had no children.

Ethel Holden was a student at Pearl River County Agricultural High School and Junior College in 1930-31. The 1931 Satsuma, the school yearbook at the time, shows that she was involved in many school activities, including the Reveille Society, Girl Reserve Club and the Seco Club.

Templeton fell in love with PRCC

Jean Baughman Wessel Templeton spent one year at Pearl River. The year was 1954-55.

This successful businesswoman makes her home in Huntsville, Ala. She fell in love with the college from the start. She became a cheerleader, a columnist (Fashions and Fads) for the school newspaper and was active in the Future Business Leaders Club. She is the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Wesfam Restaurants, Inc., a franchisee of Burger King Corp.

She donated the chimes to the Malone Chapel on the PRCC campus. Her three children endowed a $20,000 scholarship to PRCC in her name. Today, she oversees Wesfam, which includes 27 Burger King restaurants in north Alabama and more than 300 employees.

Jean Baughman Wessel Templeton

Longtime tradition: Perk Week, 'Nuff Said

No one knows exactly when it started, but Perk Week - leading up to the annual Pearl River-Gulf Coast football rivalry - dates back as far as 1939 when students held a mock funeral on campus for the Bulldogs.

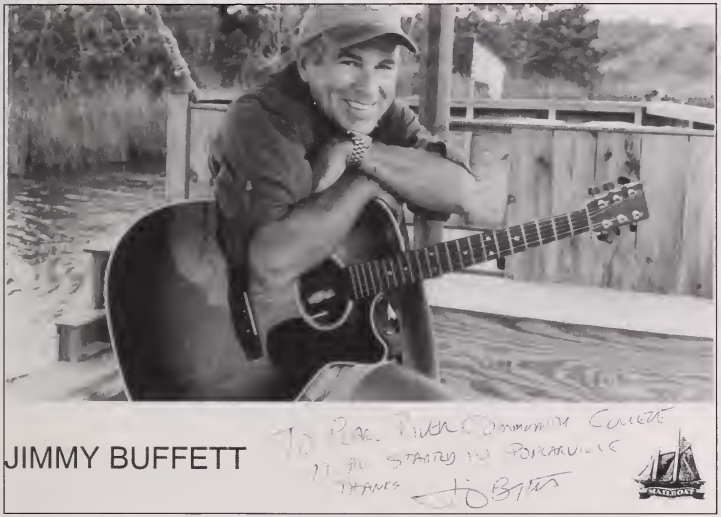
Captions from the 1939 Critque yearbook: Above left, The Masquerade is over - and so is Perk. Above right, flower girls march in Perk's funeral. Below left, the final rites. Below right, at rest.

Each year, for one week during a seemingly endless 36, the rules on Pearl River's campus were virtually forgotten and all "hell" broke loose. Night-long pep rallies and parties in dormitories, drenching water balloon fights, and parades on and off campus highlighted Perk Week.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

The Spirit of Perk Week . . .

Jimmy Buffett stopped off in Poplarville on way to stardom



Famous singer, songwriter and author attended Pearl River in 1965-66

While attending Pearl River College, Buffett, third from left on the back row, was a member of the French Club. On Buffett's left are Jimmy Gore and James Bennett. On his right are Lucien Bourgeois, Wordie Carroll and Mrs. Frances Fornea, sponsor. Seated from left are Tommy Pou, Donnie Saucier, Diane Bennet and Debbie Harkey. The French Club had 34 members in all. The photo above, autographed by Buffett, is on display in the PRCC Museum along with some of his books.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives and Jimmy Buffett

Queens reign over homecoming at The River

1958 - Ruby Coggins

1962 - Jackie Garraway is pictured with escort Jim Lee (left) and Alumni President Lewis Murray.

1966 - Gloria Campbell is crowned by Carl Lofton. Her escort is Tim Sanford.

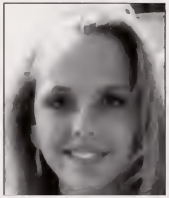
1968 - Kit Campbell

1973 - Sandy Kilgore. Her escort is her dad. They are pictured with Alumni President Martin Smith (left).

1985 - Jennifer Hammill is flanked on her right by Alumni President Larry Ladner and her dad, Dean Miller Hammill.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

1978 - Barbara McQueen was crowned by George Dale (right), alumni president. Her escort is her dad, J.L. McQueen.



1991 - Anita Trotter

1992 - Rachel Fillingame and her father Les.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

1996 - Robyn Ford and her dad, Dow Ford, the director of admissions at PRCC.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

1999 - Jana Jenkins and her dad, Roger.

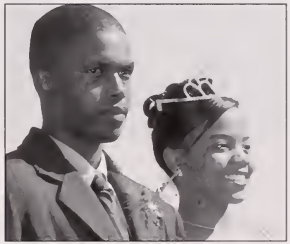
Homecoming

Homecoming is a special time for some very special students. These are just a few of the young ladies who were queens for a day.

2000 - Jennifer Hall with her dad.

2001 - Leigh Ann Smith and her dad.

2002 - Lindsey Miller and her dad, Dale.



2003 - Rosalyn Cameron, brother Martin.

2004 - Yolanda Hartfield with her brother, Charles Hartfield II.

2005 - Chastity McLemore is crowned by President William Lewis.

2006 - Robin Drake with her father, Rev. Robert Drake.

2007 - Lindsay Wilberding, escorted by her dad, is crowned by PRCC President William Lewis.

Pearl River graduation memorable time

Before Hurricane Katrina in 2005, PRC graduations, like the one above in 1997, were held in M.R. White Coliseum. Since that time, graduations have been held in Hattiesburg.

The graduating class of 1961.

Alma Mater

O! Pearl River College, we're loyal to you. To our Alma mater we're faithful and true.
You stand on the hills with the tall swaying pine. The Symbol of all honor you'll be through all time.
You stand for the highest and we will uphold Your standards and colors of maroon and gold;
And where'er we wander from these halls so dear, The clear call of our college we will always hear.

The PRC class of 1969 held its graduation ceremony in Dobie Holden Stadium.

The graduating class of 1963.

PRCC Public Relations photo

Leslie Burge of Lumberton receives her diploma from Dr. William Lewis in 2006.

Brandi Re of Hattiesburg clutches her diploma during 2006 graduation ceremonies.

Cheryl Johnson of Picayune helps Ayeshalia Green of Hattiesburg, both nursing students, with the cord that signifies Green graduated with honors in 2007.

Christie Davis of Picayune is all smiles at 2006 graduation.

Shalamar Walker of Columbia shakes hands with Dr. Lewis in 2006.

Sara LeBlanc, right, helps Samantha Taylor, both of Carriere, with her cap before graduation in 2007.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The 2005-06 Pearl River Community College cheerleaders attended their first national competition and finished fourth in the 2006 College National Championship in Orlando, Fla. Candace Mooney was the coach. "This was the first year in PRCC's history that the cheerleaders attended the championship," she said. "The devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the untimely injury of one of our members did not keep us from going to this competition. There were more than 200 cheer and dance teams competing from universities and colleges around the world." Members of the PRCC team were Frank McKinley (captain) and Paul Picou of Hancock, Lindsey Stovall of Brandon, Ashley Mayeaux of Slidell, La., Jake Pearce and Ashley Ladner of Bay St. Louis, Brian Griffin and James Rivenbark of Gulfport, Jeremy Bailey of Hattiesburg, Brandon Slade of Waveland, Will Rouse of Poplarville, Chastity McLemore (captain), Kimberly Stewart and Adam Spiers of Picayune, Andee Kelly of Oak Grove and Kalah Holmes of Carriere.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Following a first-place finish in the 2006 UCA Cheer Championship, the 2006-07 PRCC cheerleaders finished seventh in the nationals at the College National Championship in Orlando, Fla. "The nationals are one of the most prestigious cheerleading competitions in the country," said Candace Harper, PRCC cheerleading coach. "This was our second year to attend. Most of the other schools have been going for more than 10 years." The PRCC cheerleaders made a skill and safety tape, which qualified them for the final round of competition. According to Harper, one of the biggest advantages of attending national competition is the scholarship opportunities that the PRCC cheerleaders get from universities. In 2006, PRCC had five sophomores accept scholarships from universities after attending the national competition. Members of the 2006-07 team include from left: Front row - Ciara Gunn of Carriere, Ashley Ladner of Waveland and Indy Fitzgerald of Carriere. Middle row - Adam Spiers of Picayune, Sunni Smith of Carriere, Kayla Kelly of Picayune, Alison Mitchell of Picayune, Kalah Holmes of Carriere, Krista Thomas of Pass Christian and James Rivenbark of Gulfport. Back row - Stacy Britt of Forrest County AHS, Cord Cole of Saucier, Jeremy Williams of Lizana, Bryan Griffin of Gulfport, Jeremy Bailey of Sumrall, Tyler Ball of Hancock, Daniel Soley of Forrest County AHS and Justin Tucker of Purvis.

PRCC Public Relations photos

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Congratulations Pearl River Community College from LaRue and Mary Jean Saulters

Left, LaRue Saulters and Mary Jean Crews at the wishing well at Gov. Bilbo's home - Juniper Grove out from Poplarville in 1947. Right, the last picture of LaRue and Mary Jean Saulters before LaRue's death on June 26, 1996. LaRue Saulters was a member of the 1947 boys basketball team and was selected on the all-state team.

Photos courtesy of Mary Jean Saulters

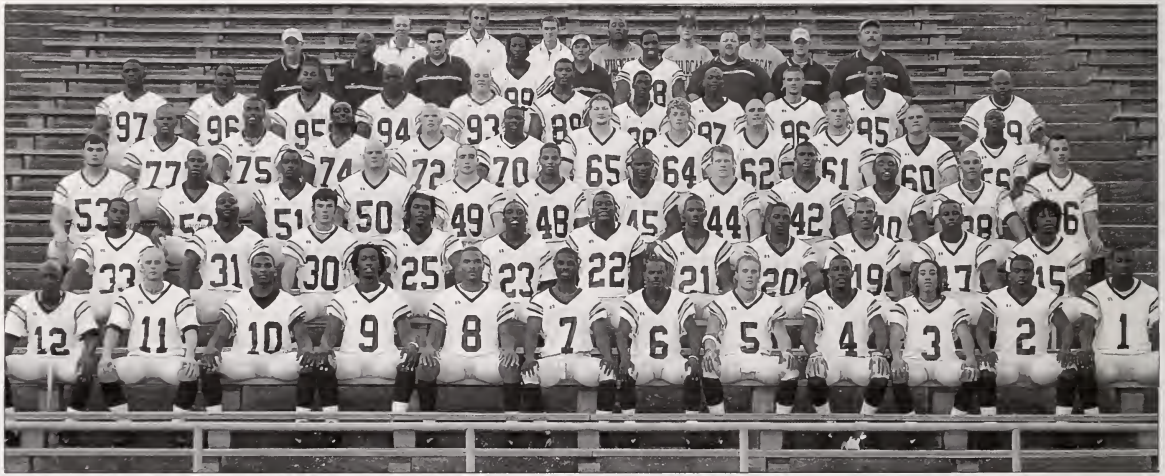
Congratulations Pearl River Community College on 100 years. Verlene Norton Cole, president of the college alumni association.

Verlene Norton Cole attended Pearl River Community College the years 1950-51 (left photo). She played basketball, worked in the registrar's office, waited tables in the dining hall and was active in various campus organizations. She graduated with honors and received the citizenship award. A recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in 2005, Miss Cole is also a member of the Foundation Board and secretary-treasurer of the Forrest-Lamar Chapter of the PRCC Alumni Association.

"It is a special privilege to have been a part of this Centennial Celebration and I look forward to having a small part in the next Century," said Miss Cole.

Photos courtesy of Verlene Norton Cole

2003 MACJC State Champions. Final record: 10-1



1. Larry Brackins, 2. Josh Barnes, 3. Jonathan Eiland, 4. Raymond Dukes, 5. Jacob Garber, 6. Rphyel Howell, 7. Nicholas Golden, 8. Derrick Graves, 9. Anthony Johnson, 10. Le'Patrick Booth, 11. Sam Thomas, 15. Levance Richmond, 17. Marcello Woods, 18. Sandy Ray Collins, 19. Julian McGowan, 21. Joe Hinton, 22. Curtis Hayes, 24. Artez McLaughlin, 25. Larry Kendrick, 31. Bernard Smith, 33. Ervin Jackson, 36. Trey Lunsford, 38. Gene Coleman, 40. George Leverette, 42. Alvin Robinson, 44. Ian Moore, 45. Barry Robertson, 48. Edjuan Williamson, 49. Schuyler Kellog, 50. Brandon Robertson, 51. Michael Loftin, 52. Johnny Berry, 53. Brad Steube, 54. Casey Cotton, 56. Quincy Hicks, 60. Scott Foote, 61. Chad Foote, 65. Matthew Lott, 70. Cleveland Gray, 72. Steven Pahlman, 74. Allen Wilks, 75. Marcus Lampton, 77. Reginald Keys, 79. Wyatt Tatum, 85. James Hollingsworth, 86. Greg Bryant, 88. Phoenix Thompson, 89. Carlos Ducksworth, 93. Chris Milner, 94. James Carter, 95. Dwayne Moss, 96. Oren Lewis, 97. Warren Randle, 98. Marcus Crosby, 99. Kyle Morgan. Head coach: Tim Hatten, Assistant coaches: William Jones, Buddy Stephens, John Creech, Tony Magee; Student assistants: Justin Owen, Russell Mitchell; trainers: Kelly McGlockin (head), Matt Esser, Ryan Jackson; managers: Gren Burgess, Tramell Foster, Daniel Murray, Nick Pyron, Josh Shows, Nathan Smit.

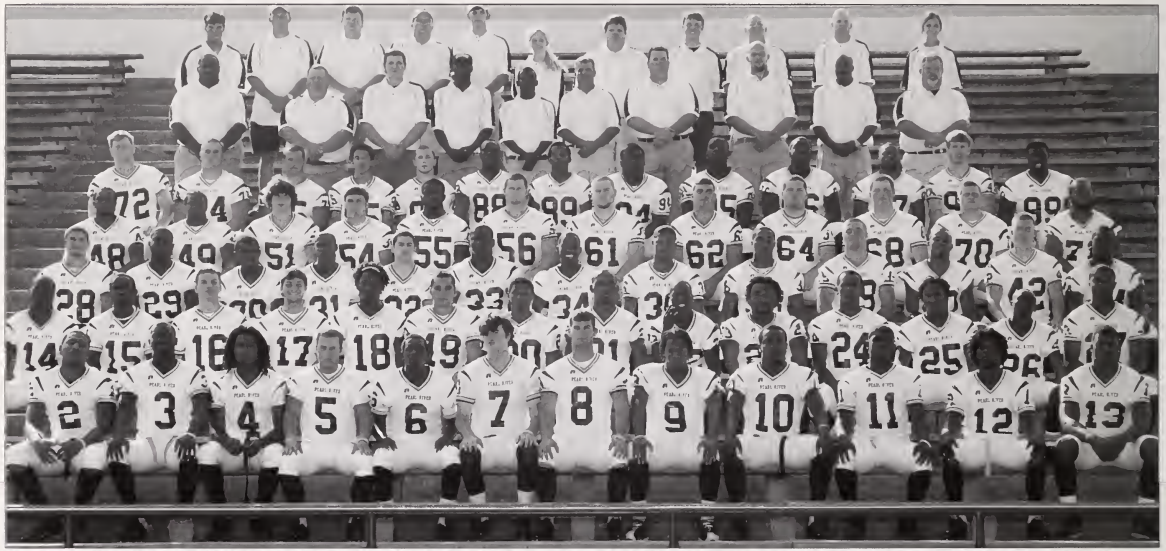
PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

2004 MACJC State & National Champs. Final record: 12-0

FROM LEFT: Front row - Larry Brackins, Josh Barnes, Tim Kulukoski, Glentrelle Ware, Jacob Garber, Jimmy Oliver, Nick Golden, Brian Graham, Gene Coleman, Charles Brown, Sam Thomas, Brandon Fountain. Second row - Levance Richmond, Kyle Sellers, Julian McGowan, Shalamar Walker, Sandy Ray Collins, Gabe Fairman, Mike McClendon, George Leverette, Artez McLaughlin, Bernard Smith, and Marcus Thomas. Third row - Ervin Jackson, Chris St. John, Lawrence Atkinson, Justin Lewis, Chris Lowery, Perry Guinn, Kenneth McBeath, Edjuan Williamson, Kenny Lawler, Matt Roberts, Michael Loftin, and Johnny Berry. Fourth row - Jarod Barrois, Josh Davis, Kevin Oatis, Alex Davis, Adam Purvis, Tanner Graves, Matt Rayburn, Matt Lott, Keith Gay, Kevin Gay, and Brad Steube. Fifth row - Ryan Sefton, Scotty Dunn, Steven Pahlman, Reggie Keys, Wyatt Tatum, Vince Strickland, James Hollingsworth, Doug Dubuisson, Chris Easterling, Ladean Byrd, Chris Milner and James Carter. Sixth row - Managers Todd Aultman, Chris Darden and Tyler Ball; players Frank Harry, Nick Hume, Arthur Magee, Ben McGilton, and Marcus Crosby; managers Garrett Douglas, Daniel Murray and Karl Henrichson. Seventh row - Assistant coaches Darek Smith, Loray Jordan, Buddy Stephens, Tony Magee, head coach Tim Hatten, assistant coaches John Creech, William Jones and Russell Mitchell.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

2005 MACJC State Champions. Final record: 8-1



Members of the 2005 PRCC football team include from left: Front row - Brian Keith Coulter, Larry Freeman, Danny Bell, Jacob Garber, Jimmy Oliver, Tim Kulikowski, Doug Dubuisson, Demetrius Byrd, Charles Brown, Ricky Smith, Brandon Fountain, David Tate. Second row - Kenneth Robinson, Justin Brandon, Kyle Sellers, Shalamar Walker, Lorenzo Williams, Gabe Fairman, Mike McClendon, George Leverette, Gene Anderson, Jeffery Smith. Third row - Seth Hayden, Richard Roper, Marcus Ware, Scott Hillery, Kendrick Young, Michael Watts, Marquis McBeath, Maurice Haynes, Steven Dauenhauer, Chris Lowery, Perry Quinn, Kenneth McBeath. Fourth row - Chandler Richardson, Chase Richardson, Julius Gray, Josh Davis, Donel Smith, Kevin Parker, Tanner Graves, Clint Whitley, Kenneth Evans, Wesley Little, Scotty Dunn. Fifth row - Ryan Sefton, Jeffery Stewart, Vince Strickland, Derwyn Cooley, Frank Harry, Dorian Capers, Ben McGilton, Rodney Millsap. Coaches - Head coach Tim Hatten, assistants William Jones, Buddy Stephens, John Creech, Anthony Magee, Johnny Tart, Loray Jordan, Russell Mitchell and Melvin Tart. Sports medicine - Kelly McGlocklin and Brooke Roane. Support staff - Todd Aultman, Josh Davis, Garrett Douglas, Karl Kenrichson, Zane Morea.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

2006 MACJC State Champions. Final record: 10-2

Members of the 2006 PRCC football team include from left: First row - Demetrius Byrd (1), Brian Keith Coulter (2), Larry Freeman (3), Carlton Hill (4), J.J. Smith (5), Brad Bingham (6), Mike Greco (7), Richard Roper (8), Chris Reed (9), Ricky Smith (10), Adam Robin (11), Louis Norman (12). Second row - Ray Chisholm (13), Kenny Robinson (14), Lance Cuevas (16), P.J. Nixon (17), Gene Anderson (18), Steven Dauenhauer (19), Josh Wiley (20), Terrence Handy (21), Brandon Burns (22), Maurice Haynes (24), Bubba Kirksey (25). Third row - Marcus Ware (27), Seth Hayden (28), Phillip Sullivan (29), Todd Adams (30), Jamie Hill (31), Donte Spiers (32), Kendrick Young (33), Darius Hart (34), Malcomb Keys (35), Desi Chisholm (36), Georgio Hall (37), Marvis Burkett (38). Fourth row - Joshua Pruett (40), Keon Wilson (42), Al Hunt (44), Brent Acker (45), Chandler Richardson (48), Chase Richardson (49), Julius Gray (50), Decker Farris (51), Rodrekious Rankin (53), Kyle Hughes (55). Fifth row - Teddy Morris (56), Collin Miller (60), Adam Purvis (61), T.J. Harper (62), Clint Whitley (64), Jacob Karl (65), Ken Evans (68), Jeffery Stewart (74), Jeff Gatlin (77), Nate Jenkins (78), Barrett Cobb (86). Sixth row - Henry Monti, Josh Davis, Shawn Ector (88), Anthony Shaw (93), Jacob Whitehead (96), Thomas Robinson (97), Alex Ford (98), Aaron Williams (99), Carl Henrichson, Todd Aultman, Joey Cerone. Seventh row - Coaches Buddy Stephens, Melvin Tart, Johnny Tart, Russell Mitchell, (head) Tim Hatten, Drew Dewease, John Creech, William Jones, and Larry Whigham. Back row - Trainers Kelly McGlocklin, Jaclyn Allen, Amber Sumrall, Courtney Dossett, Adam Dyess, Francesca Henry, and Tiffany McBeath. Not pictured: Justin Brandon and trainer Brooke Roane.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

In 2007, PRCC became the first community college in Mississippi to feature a weekly coaches show. Jason Baker (left), Voice of the Wildcats, hosted the show with head football coach Tim Hatten.

Quarterback Jimmy Oliver (2004-05), left, and wide receiver Demetrius Byrd (2006-07) are two reasons the Wildcats won four straight state championships from 2003 to 2006. Oliver, from East Marion High in Columbia, was a two-time NJCAA All-American offensive player of the year and Byrd was a second-team NJCAA All-American.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

PRCC Wildcat football state championships

1924	7-0	Coach Goat Hale	1961	10-0	Coach Dobie Holden
1926	6-1	Coach Goat Hale	1963	9-0-1	Coach Dobie Holden
1927	N/A	Coach Goat Hale	1969	9-0	Coach John Russell
1928	N/A	Coach Goat Hale	1970	9-2	Coach John Russell
1949	10-1	Coach Dobie Holden	1976	9-2	Coach J.C. Arban
1953	9-0-1	Coach Dobie Holden	2003	10-1	Coach Tim Hatten
1956	9-0	Coach Dobie Holden	2004	12-0	Coach Tim Hatten
1959	9-0-1	Coach Dobie Holden	2005	8-1	Coach Tim Hatten
1960	9-1	Coach Dobie Holden	2006	10-2	Coach Tim Hatten

Superlatives

- The 1961 and 2004 PRCC teams won national championships.
- PRCC has state championship trophies from 1927 and 1928, but the records are unavailable.
- In 85 years of football, Pearl River has won more than 78 percent of its games.
- Pearl River has recorded 14 undefeated regular seasons.
- Pearl River has shut out its opponents 122 times and held opponents to seven points or less 300 times.
- According to existing records, Pearl River has won 500 games, lost 240 and tied 24.
- For 22 straight seasons, Pearl River has recorded eight victories or more, had five runner-up titles and five South Division championships.
- There have been only 14 losing seasons in school history.
- In 1980, J.C. Gridwire ranked Pearl River as the fourth best junior-community college team over the previous 20 years.

Wildcats won back-to-back state titles (2003-2004)

The 2003 PRCC men's basketball team captured its third MACJC state title under head coach Richard Mathis. The Wildcats finished the season 25-5. Pictured from left to right: Front row - Keesler Johnson (20), Jonathan Williams (34), Yandell Brown (12), Scott Fletcher (10), Kitt Jones (42), James Ball (24), Carlos Cole (30) and Scott Martin (54). Back row - Assistant coach Jimmy Cuyler, managers Terry Lowe and Geremy Goff, Jeremy Bragg (40), Ray Selvage (50), Justin Miller (33), Alvin Smith (44), managers Colby Jenkins and Lewis Hill, and head coach Richard Mathis. Not pictured are Renard Elzy (32) and Jonathan Williams (34).

The 2004 PRCC men's basketball team captured its fourth MACJC state title under head coach Richard Mathis. The Wildcats finished the season 20-9. Mathis also won state titles in 1995, 1998 and 2003. In 33 seasons, Mathis has won more than 625 games. Pictured from left to right: Front row - Carlos Cole, Jonathan Williams, Gabe Willis, Kitt Jones, Malcom Fonerette, Jason Simmons, Jacoby Rawls, and Daryl Cohen. Standing - Manager Lewis Hill, assistant coach Brad Bunch, Leron Magee, Ethan Smith, Alvin Smith, Ray Selvage, Larry Brackins, Jeremy Goff, head coach Richard Mathis, manager Henry Gutierrez and manager Jay Stafford. PRCC has won a total of 10 state championships. The first state title came in 1931.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

2004 MACJC State Champions. Final record: 42-8

Jake Smith (right photo) hoists the Region XXIII championship plaque following the Wildcats' win over Hinds for the regional title in 2002. The Wildcats advanced to the NJCAA Division II World Series in Millington, Tenn. for the first time, where they finished fifth. The Wildcats finished the season with a 42-13 record, the best in school history. "It's a tough way to end the season, but we accomplished a lot this year," said first-year coach Jay Artigues. "Our goal from the outset of the season was to win the regionals, the super regionals and get to the World Series."

The year 2004 was also a good one for the Pearl River baseball team, coached by Jay Artigues. The Wildcats defeated Meridian 10-2 in the MACJC State Championship game to win the school's first state baseball title. They had a 42-8 record. Members of the team include from left: Front row - Ryne Lovdahl, Garrett Drake, Michael Massey, Jerry Bourne, Mark Muzzi, Jordan Kobs, Justin Harris, Brandon Strong and Bailey Hartel. Second row - Manager Joey Serone, Craig Rodriguez, Keith Winstead, Jared Landrum, Hunter Beasley, Jacob Smith, Rhyne Hughes, Corey Bass, Chris Romano, Martin Roark and Jordan Rogers. Back row - Matt Riser, Jeff Cook, Mark Griffin, Tyler Stutes, Thomas Royals, Neil Farve, Richard Imhoff, Brent Varnado, Zack Butler, and Zack Northington. Assistant coaches were Jamie McMahon, Seth Thibodeau and Tony Salim.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

One of the fan favorites during Pearl River Community College's run of four straight state championships was running back Seth Hayden (28) of Pearl River Central. Here, Hayden is surrounded by his fan club after No. 1-ranked PRCC defeated No. 3-ranked Mississippi Gulf Coast 36-22 on Sept. 14, 2006, before a crowd of some 12,000 at Dobie Holden Stadium in Poplarville, the largest crowd in school history. Hayden rushed for 146 yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

2003 MACJC State & Region 23 soccer champs

The 2003 State & Region XXIII champions include Cameron Lovitt (Oak Grove), Austin Lovitt (Oak Grove), Bubba Dedeaux (Oak Grove), David Flynt (Picayune High), Jeffrey Hansell (St. Stanislaus), Chris St. John (Oak Grove), Brennan Brooks (St. Stanislaus), Bryce Breland (St. Stanislaus), Kris Williams (East Central), David Fletcher (Oak Grove), Kade James (Forrest County AHS), Drew Gallant (Forrest County AHS), Brandon Bass (Oak Grove), Walt Thomas (Petal), David Levens (Long Beach), Stephen Kulikowski ((St. Stanislaus), John Briscoe (San Antonio, Fla.), Zack Harrison (Brookhaven), Tommy Henry (Bay St. Louis), Josh Grajewski (Picayune High), Michael Bucciantini (Hattiesburg High) and Jerrad Cooper (George County). Head coach was Adam Breerwood and assistant coach Chris D'Ambrosio.

For the first time in school history, the PRCC men's soccer team won both the MACJC and Region 23 soccer championships. The Wildcats won the state and region titles with a 3-1 victory over Hinds behind a three-goal effort by Drew Gallant. The Wildcats went on to play Tyler (Texas) Junior College in the Mid-Southwest District Tournament, losing 2-1. The Wildcats finished the season with a 17-3-2 overall record. Said Breerwood, "These guys laid the foundation for the future of men's soccer here at Pearl River."

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

Lady Wildcats win 1st MACJC soccer title in 2005

The 2005 State champions include Brandi Ri (Hattiesburg), Emily Vanlandingham (Pike County), Nikki Shows (Hattiesburg), Becky Horton (Slidell, La.), Jennifer Vital (Carriere), Kristy McCain (Vicksburg), Samantha Gracia (Hattiesburg), Brittney Parks (Carriere), Laken Stamps (Hattiesburg), Carol Ann Thigpen (Carriere), Amanda Melville (Gulfport), Holland McCandles (Waveland), Mandy Walker (Florence), Haadi Likely (Gautier), Kasey Hendry (Hattiesburg), Jaclyn Allen (Hattiesburg), Jessica Boehmer (Hattiesburg) and Erin Holder (Hattiesburg). Head coach was Patrick Hayes and and assistant coach was Chad Hampton. Athletic trainer was Brooke Roane.

For the first time in school history, the PRCC women's soccer team won the MACJC soccer state championship. The Lady Wildcats won the title with a 2-1 victory over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. The Lady Wildcats beat Mississippi Delta 5-4 in a double-overtime shootout to reach the championship game. PRCC finished the season with a 15-3 record. In the title game, Nikki Shows of Forrest County AHS and Jennifer Vital of Pearl River Central scored one goal each for Pearl River.

PRCC Photo by Mitch Deaver

Lady Wildcats won school's first state title in 1994

Members of the 1994 Pearl River Community College Lady Wildcat state championship basketball team included Elaine Powell , Sabrina Wactor, Valoria Carpenter, Kristi Russell, Karen Powell, Shona Barnes, Daphnie Dedeaux, Paula Lowe, Lawann Dorsey, Laveta Willis and Caronica Debose. Elaine Powell, who wore No. 10, and Laveta Willis, who wore No. 34, made the All-State first team. Powell was also selected Division I All-American by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Polly Kirkland coached the Lady Wildcats for 12 seasons, achieving a 199-130 record, including the school's first state championship in 1994, and first National Region 23 Championship in 1995, resulting in a seventh-place finish in the "Sweet 16" national tournament.

- She guided the Wildcats to undefeated home records in 1994, 1995 and 1999 and won at least 20 games four years.
- In 1988, she posted a 20-9 record. She won 26 games in 1994 and 1995.
- Coach Kirkland was picked NJCAA Coach of the Year in 1995.

Region 23 champions finished 7th in the 'Sweet 16'

1995 Lady 'Cats took program to new level

The 1994-95 Pearl River Community College Lady Wildcat team finished with a 26-7 overall record, winning the school's first National Region 23 Championship and a seventh-place finish in the "Sweet 16" national tournament.

Members of the team included Elaine Powell, Tameka Tillman, Kristi Russell, Karen Powell, Daphnie Dedeaux, Alberta Travis, Kenya Mariner, Beth Bansbach, Voloria Carpenter, Keisa Warren, Heather Ratcliff, Stacey Kennedy, Gaynell Gross and Caronica Debose. The managers were Karin Jones, Loineta Peters and Connie Travis.

Elaine Powell was one of five first-team All-Americans and one Kodak All-American coached by Polly Kirkland.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Forrest County Center marked with continous growth

HATTIESBURG - Pearl River Community College's Forrest County Center, long associated primarily with technical education, is emerging as a comprehensive academic campus.

And the 2006 official opening of a sparkling new library and science laboratory gave college leaders the chance to highlight PRCC's growing presence in Hattiesburg.

"This is a special day for the college, and it may well be a historic day," PRCC President William Lewis said. "We recognized we needed to expand our academic offerings due to the demands of the growing population."

And that growth has been significant. Situated on U.S. 49 South, the Forrest County Center's enrollment has doubled from 631 in 2000 to more than 1,200 in spring 2006. Lewis hopes the $1.6 million library and science lab renovation, funded primarily by a property tax allowance from the Forrest County Board of Supervisors that did not raise levies on homeowners, will send the message that the Hattiesburg campus is responding to the needs of its growing student body.

Taking part in the ceremony were from left: Dr. Cecil Burt, Dean of the Forrest County Center, District 1 Supervisor David Allen, District 3 Supervisor Lynn Cartlidge, PRCC President William Lewis, District 5 Supervisor Billy Hudson, District 4 Supervisor Roderick Woullard, PRCC Board of Trustee member H.R. Nobles, District 2 Supervisor Charles Marshall, and PRCC Board of Trustees members Kay Clay, Charles Speed and M.L. "Sonny" Knight.

PRCC Public Relations photo

Forrest County Center growth

The Allied Health Center (above) at the Forrest County Center opened in 1992. It houses a variety of alled health programs and administrative offices. Housed in the building are medical, dental and science laboratories as well as several classrooms. A 5,000-square-foot addition was added in 2002. Left, the front view of the new library which was completed in 2006. It also features a Learning Lab.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Signs of progress

Above, sociology and welding students worked together to design and build the Wildcat mascot for the footbridge at the Forrest County Center. Right, Dr. Cecil Burt (left), dean of the FCC, and John Grant, vice president for instruction, chat with Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny Dupree. Left, a photo of the new entrance boulevard to the Hattiesburg campus.

PRCC Public Relations photos

As the Forrest County Center has grown in programs and class offerings, enrollment nearly doubled from 2,000 to 2007 with more than 1,500 students each semester. The Allied Health Center offers a variety of programs from Dental Hygiene Technology and Dental Assisting to Medical Laboratory Technology to Medical Radiography, as well as Surgical Technology, Respiratory Care Practitioner Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology, Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology and Office Systems Technology, as well as a Practical Nursing program. Below left, members of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club annually have their teeth checked and cleaned by dental hygiene students. Below right, students annually find time to have a little fun during Fall Fest, where they perform skits, play games and have lunch on the school.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Hancock County welcomes Hancock Center

Pearl River Community College President William Lewis (center) and Dr. Gaynell Roberts, former coordinator of Hancock County operations, are joined by Hancock County officials for the January 2005 ribbon cutting ceremony at PRCC's Hancock Center in the old Wal-Mart building on U.S. 90.

Classes in session at the Hancock Center.

PRCC Public Relations photos

WAVELAND - Pearl River Community College officially opened the doors to its new Hancock County Center in January 2005.

The center, some 6,000 square feet of space, is located in Waveland's old Wal-Mart building on U.S. 90. The center features four classrooms, a conference room and some offices.

Then on Aug. 25, 2005, the center was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The storm sent eight to 10 feet of water pouring through the Wave Shopping Center, which is about a block west of Mississippi 603.

The storm's surge destroyed the computers and furnishings.

"There was mud above your ankles, debris that was unbelievable," said PRCC President William Lewis. "One of the things we saw was a white trout. Can you image a white trout in the hallway two and a half miles from the beach? It meant starting over."

Classes were moved to Stennis International Airport until the center could be reopened.

On Jan. 25, 2007, the Hancock Center officially reopened at its site on U.S. Highway 90 in Waveland.

"There are many major players who made this Hancock County branch of Pearl River Community College possible. I want to express my appreciation to the Hancock County Board of Supervisors and the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce. This is another phase of our continued efforts to provide affordable and quality educational opportunities to the residents of our district," said Dr. Lewis.

"We are very excited about establishing a presence in Hancock County and increasing our education programs in this area. Hancock County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state."

Months after Hurricane Katrina unleashed its devastation on Hancock County in 2005, Pearl River Community College administrators, faculty and cheerleaders spent a day in Bay St. Louis helping pack donated school supplies for students when they returned to school. Members of the PRCC football staff, including head coach Tim Hatten, and players (photos below) also helped move furniture into classrooms.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Hurricane Katrina devastates PRCC campus

The date Aug. 29, 2005, will be remembered for quite some time. Hurricane Katrina devastated South Mississippi, including Pearl River Community College, with a force not seen since Hurricane Camille 39 years earlier. Winds that blew as high as 120 miles-per-hour on the PRCC campus began just before dawn and by the time they subsided after 3 p.m., Katrina had left massive damage in her wake. One of the casualties was M.R. White Coliseum (above), which was built in 1974. The building that hosted graduation, basketball games, the annual Extravganza fund raiser and many other school activities suffered extensive interior and exterior damage and had to be torn down. It has not been replaced. Graduation ceremonies were moved to Hattiesburg and basketball games are played in old Shivers Gymnasium, which was renovated.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Damage estimates on campus: $30-40 million

Moody Hall, a three-story structure built in 1926 and the oldest classroom building among the state's 15 community and junior colleges, suffered heavy damage, as did the grand piano (inset) in the auditorium. Some 20 evacuees watched from the basement floor as the auditorium roof blew off during the height of the storm, resulting in extensive interior damage from wind and rain. The auditorium portion has since been torn down, while the classrooms have been renovated for future use. "It's bad," said PRCC President William Lewis, who rode out the storm in the PRCC Technology Center, headquarters for Emergency Services for the city of Poplarville before, during and after the storm. "This is worse than Hurricane Camille." All total, some 30 buildings on campus suffered roof damage.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Campus damage was widespread

Sports facilities at PRCC took some major hits from the storm. The press box at Dobie Holden Stadium was wiped out and the scoreboard was damaged. The scoreboard has been replaced and the stadium has undergone a major renovation. The roof on the grandstand at the baseball field was ripped off. Below, the school's vehicle maintenance shop was demolished.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Staff, employees help school reopen

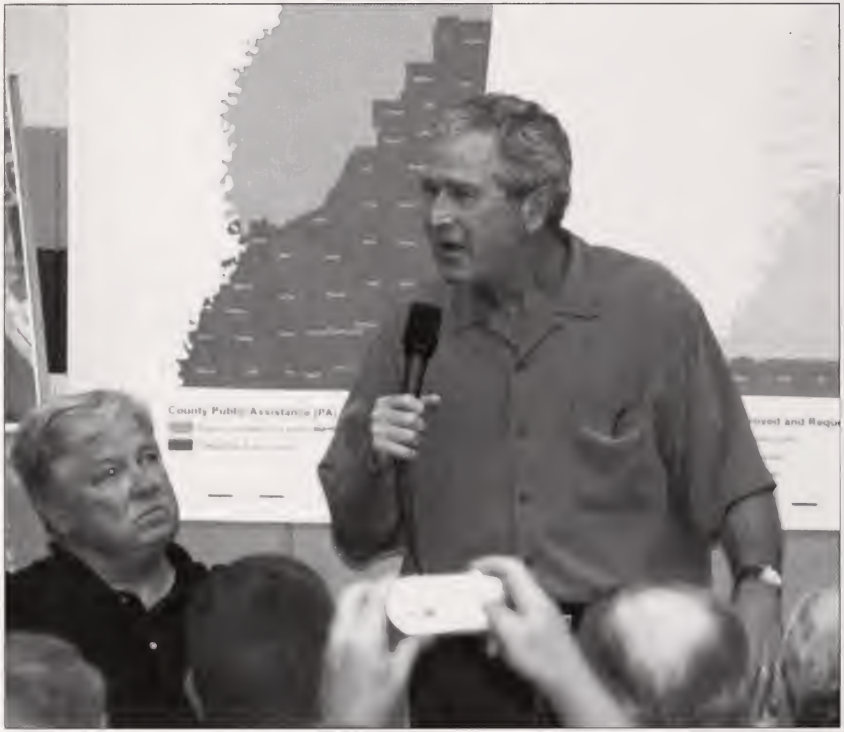
Above, PRCC President William Lewis met with employees in Malone Chapel, where he outlined plans for resuming classes at all locations. Malone Chapel suffered minimal damage from Katrina. Left, PRCC Instructors Scott Kimble, Tom Thoms and Eric Leatherwood joined other members of the faculty and staff in helping clean up the main campus in Poplarville.

Even though the storm took place on Aug. 29, classes resumed at the Forrest County Center in Hattiesburg on Sept. 12, and on the main campus in Poplarville on Sept. 19. Classes did not resume in Hancock County until the first week of October. The Hancock Center in Waveland was destroyed by the storm and classes were moved to Stennis International Airport, where portable trailers were provided.

The storm affected other aspects of school. Football season was reduced from nine games to seven. Soccer resumed on Sept. 19. The football team went on to win the MACJC State Championship, as did the Lady Wildcat soccer team. The storm also hurt enrollment as more than 1,000 students were forced to withdraw from school.

PRCC Public Relations photos

President Bush pays PRCC a visit



On Monday, Sept. 5, one week after Hurricane Katrina struck South Mississippi, President George Bush became the first sitting president to ever set foot on the PRCC campus, or to visit Poplarville for that matter.

President Bush arrived at the PRCC Tehnology Center witrh praise for local relief efforts and assurances more federal help is on the way.

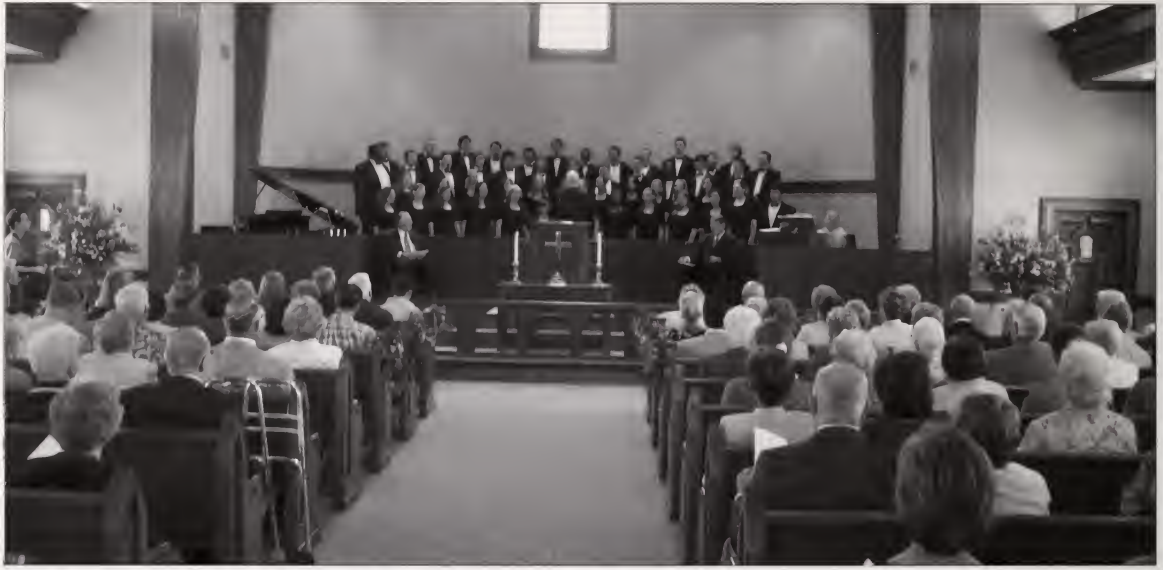
"Mississippi is on my mind," Bush said. "We are with you. That is what I want you to know."

Speaking to about 250 elected state and local officials, including Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour (below), U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering, gathered at PRCC, the president praised local relief efforts. "You showed courage," he said. "People have risked their lives to help."

PRCC Public Relations photos

Due to limited space, only a small number of local and national press (above left) were allowed to hear President Bush speak. Bush and his wife, Laura (above right), shook hands with many of those present. Black Hawk helicopters (below left) escorted the president on his trip to Poplarville. Following a tour of a Poplarville neighborhood, Bush boarded Marine I for his departure from Pearl River Community College.

PRCC Public Relations photos



On April 28, 2005, PRCC formally dedicated its new Malone Chapel on the school's main campus.

The 4,233-square-foot facility, funded entirely with private donations, features a 100-square-foot bell tower that is 45 feet tall. The chapel features a bride's room, a sound room, restrooms, a stage area and seating capacity for up to 215 people. Total cost of the chapel project was $750,000.

Thanks to a $400,000 donation by Hattiesburg businessman and PRCC alumnus Sidney Malone in memory of his son, Kelly, who died Sept. 1, 1987, and due to the generosity of hundreds of PRCC supporters, the chapel campaign was an inspiring event.

Left, PRCC alumnus Sidney Malone, his wife, Ritchie, and their grandchildren pose in front of the sign outside Malone Chapel.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The outside of Malone Chapel features the Elaine Herring Memorial Prayer Garden. Members of the chapel committee were Frances Chisholm, Kathryn Moody and the Rev. Eugene Banes of Poplarville, Frank Ladner of Bay St. Louis, Berlon Lee, Dub Herring, John Tatum and P.W. Polk of Picayune, Howell Purvis of Purvis, Don Robbins of Carson, Tracy Waits of Prentiss, Elton Raby of Hattiesburg, Jeanette Crain of Columbia, James Ginn (Chapel Campaign chairman) of Diamondhead, PRCC counselor Ethel Batson and PRCC President William Lewis.

PRCC Public Relations photos

The President's Home, built in 1987, is a two-story, 5,100-square-foot French Acadian structure designed with an open plan allowing adequate space for the president and his family and for entertaining special guests to the campus. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the house underwent some major renovation work.

Before 1987, the president's home was located in the Alumni House, which currently houses the PRCC Development Foundation. That home was built in 1923.

PRCC Public Relations photos

PRCC Public Relations photos

'Miss Livie' left lasting impression on PRCC family

Olivia Bender, who blessed the PRCC campus with a fervent but happy mission for 55 years, who touched the lives of thousands over her 75 years, who was a ray of sunshine in the lives of all who knew her, passed away in July 2004.

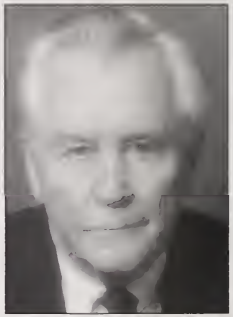
Since 1950, when she began working at PRCC, Bender cooked thousands of meals for thousands of students, those student's children, and their children's children. In 2000, PRCC officials named the school cafeteria in her honor.

"Olivia Bender lived a life of goodwill, kindness and faithfulness," said PRCC President William Lewis. "She had a God-given ability to make each and every person that she came in touch with feel special. "Miss Livie" was a living legend at Pearl River. The spirit of her legacy is deeply embedded in our college."

During her time as an employee at PRCC, she worked for a dozen cafeteria supervisors under five presidents. "I just like the people and my job," Bender said, in her sweet, compassionate voice. "My work is a blessing. The main reason are the students. I love them all."

No one could speak more to the history and growth at PRCC than Bender. When she began work at PRCC, the campus was much smaller, consisting of the ROTC building and some dormitories, plus an outhouse for a bathroom. The lunch menu in those days consisted mainly of collard greens, sweet potatoes, peanut butter and jelly.

Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center



Lowery A. Woodall

HATTIESBURG - Some 300 business, education and community leaders, including Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, were on hand in November 2004 for the ribbon cutting, officially opening Pearl River Community College's Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center.

The opening of the Center represented a milestone in efforts to upgrade the skills of the South Mississippi workforce.

"Pearl River will make this a center of excellence, teaching people from adult basic education to skills training, things that we need to do in this state, if we are going to give people the quality of life that they deserve," said Gov. Barbour.

"I am convinced the greatest link we need in Mississippi for economic growth lies in workforce development skills training."

He went on to say that productivity is tied to technology.

"Places like the Woodall Center are critical," he said. "Job training is something we owe our work force, so they can get better and higher paying jobs. This center is a great place for us to do that, and it's a tribute to the people who have worked so hard to see this happen."

The ATC, located on 12 acres in the Hattiesburg-Forrest County Industrial Park, is part of the Southeast Mississippi Center for Advanced Technology Partnership established by the Mississippi Legislature.

ATC ribbon cutting

HATTIESBURG - The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center was held in November 2004. Taking part in the official opening were from left: PRCC President William Lewis, Michelle Woodall Bacon and Linda Woodall, daughters of the late Lowery A. Woodall, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, and Bobby Chain of Hattiesburg, president of the Woodall Center Board of Advisors and president of the PRCC District Workforce Council. ■ On Feb. 14, 2003, the ATC was officially named for Lowery A. Woodall, who passed away on March 13, 2004.

"The Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center represents a significant advancement in PRCC's workforce training resources and capabilities," said PRCC President William Lewis. "The Center exemplifies what good things can be accomplished when government, business and education join forces to meet the needs of our citizens."

The Woodall Center is, first, a place where working people can receive training, and a place where help and resources are available to anyone wishing to improve their skills.

Second, the Woodall Center is a symbol of Mississippi's understanding of the 21st Century workplace, where technical competence, teamwork and communication skills are essential to individual and organizational success.

Further, the Woodall Center symbolizes Mississippi's commitment to the working people of Mississippi.

The two-story building includes the PRCC Workforce Education staff offices, two computer labs, a business incubator, and equipment and facilities for a variety of training programs.

The Mississippi Legislature set aside $4 million to build the Woodall Center, along with a $1 million match in local funds - $500,000 from the city of Hattiesburg, $400,000 from Forrest County and $100,000 from the Asbury Foundation.

PRCC Public Relations photos

18 Extravaganzas raise nearly $1 million

Jerry Glower, pictured above with Donna Wilson Herring, then executive director of the PRCC Development Foundation, was the featured entertainer for the first Extgravaganza in 1988.

Loss of White Coliseum due to Hurricane Katrina puts an end to popular fundraiser

For 18 years, Pearl River Community College Development Foundation's annual River Extravaganza was the college's biggest fundraiser.

The event was held in M.R. White Coliseum every spring on the Poplarville campus. When Hurricane Katrina destroyed the coliseum in 2005, it had to be cancelled.

The 18 Extravaganzas raised nearly $1 million in unrestricted money. That money was used for such things as student scholarships, teacher enhancement grants, and even helped with the campaign to build Malone Chapel.

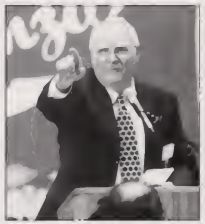
Each year some 17 restaurants from South Mississippi would provide a grand smorgasbord for more than 1000 PRCC supporters.

Some of the restaurants included:

Bradford's Seafood, Pass Christian; Brandon House, Columbia; Chappy's, Long Beach; Daddy O's CafÇ, Waveland; Deb's Four Star Pizza and Pasta, Poplarville; Dockside Seafood, Picayune; Don's Seafood Restaurant, Picayune; Farmers Market, Hattiesburg; Jody's Bakery & Caterie, Hattiesburg;.

After dinner, an auction was held annually with Dub "Paw Paw" Herring of Picayune, known around the South for his successful automotive and recreational vehicle businesses, serving as auctioneer.

Following the auction, the crowd was entertained by popular singers and songwriters, starting with Mississippi's own Jerry Glower in 1988. He was followed by Justin Wilson, and other such notables as Ronnie McDowell, Gary Collins and Mary Ann Mobley, Janie Fricke, LaDonna Gatlin, Jeff Bates and others.



Above, Justin Wilson (right) and Chappy were popular attractions in 1989. Dub "Paw-Paw" Herring (left) always kept the auction moving along with his energy. Below, entertainer Ronnie McDowell performed at four Extravaganzas, the last in 2004.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Top left, singer and songwriter Jeff Bates, a Marion County native, visits with Nancy Regan, Evelyn Williamson and Jeannette Crain, all of Columbia, Top right, PRCC President William Lewis presents Mary Ann Mobley and Gary Collins with a thank-you cake. Left center, Jeff Lawson (left) and Kelly Sanner (middle), longtime emcees for the Extravaganza, pose with Ronnie McDowell. Right middle, McDowell visits with former PRCC President Ted Alexander and his wife Barbara. Bottom left, local band Dealer's Choice, featuring Kelly Smith and Archie Rawls of PRCC, performed during dinner. Bottom right, Vince Vance and the Valiants kept the crowd on their feet with their performance in 1998. Left, entertainer LaDonna Gatlin presented her show of country and gospel music in 2003.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Promoting Pearl River Community College throughout the six-county district

The use of billboards in our district has helped PRCC increase enrollment. The billboards have featured students from the towns where they were placed. For example, the billboard below featured students from Petal High School and it was located near the highway entrance to Petal. The billboard left was located on Interstate 59 in Hattiesburg. Other billboards have been placed in Hancock and Lamar counties.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Turtle Creek Mall exhibit shows off college, as well as helps with our local recruiting efforts

In an effort to boost recruiting for the college, exhibit space was purchased at Turtle Creek Mall in Hattiesburg. Sometimes the exhibit features the technical and career programs offered at the Forrest County Center. Other times, it shows off the many accomplishments of our students and sports teams. It includes photographs, textbooks and instruments of the various programs on all campuses. The shelves on the outside of the cart feature printed materials for consumers: Applications for admission, financial aid booklets, schedules, brochures, alumni magazines and a special coloring book for kids. And sometimes the exhibit will feature pictures of our students having a good time on campus.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Some PRCC students give these future Wildcat youngsters a taste of what it's like being a true PRCC Wildcat fan at a pep rally.

PRCC Public Relations photos

Congressmen often made visits to PRCC campus

U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering of Laurel paid a visit to the PRCC campus right after Hurricane Katrina, the same day that President Bush visited PRCC.

U.S. Sen. Trent Lott of Pascagoula made several visits to PRCC during his tenure in Washington, including this trip after Hurricane Katrina.

U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor (right) of Bay St. Louis, shown here visiting with PRCC President William Lewis, is a frequent visitor to the PRCC campus. Taylor represents Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District.

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran of Jackson has made several trips to PRCC. Here, he visits with PRCC student Sergay Iveninko during a 2001 visit.

PRCC Public Relations photos

PRCC Museum: Preserving History

The Pearl River Community College museum opened its doors in October 2001.

The museum, located in the south wing of 65-year-old Hancock Hall, is the first museum of its kind to be located at a community/junior college in Mississippi and one of a few history museums operated by a community/junior college in the nation.

"Pearl River has a tremendous history," said Ronn Hague, museum director, "and we've been working to preserve that history through this museum."

The museum includes pictures, articles of school clothing and other interesting articles from the school's colorful past.

Featuring artifact collections from the school's long past, the museum is a journey into Pearl River College's history. A timeline exhibit outlines the complete history of the college and a brief history of the area.

The museum also focuses on the history of the six-county district the college serves with an emphasis on the area's early education and rural education.

The museum is a member of the American Association of Museums, the Mississippi Museum Association and the American Association for State and Local History.

Mission Statement

The Pearl River Community College Museum is a repository for historical artifacts that reflect the history and legacy of Mississippi's oldest public, two-year institution of higher education and the six-county area that provides financial support for its operation: Forrest, Hancock, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion and Pearl River counties. The mission of the Museum is dedicated to the discovery, preservation and interpretation of materials and memorabilia related to the institution's history and the lower Pearl River valley, which it serves. The Museum seeks to provide the institution's students, employees, alumni and the general public with factual information regarding the unique history of Pearl River Community College and the history of the supporting district.

The Pearl River Community College Museum is located in Hancock Hall on the Poplarville campus. Above, one of the features in the museum is the old scoreboard clock that was located in Shivers Gymnasium. Here it is displayed with some of the college's football schedule posters from seasons past.

PRCC Public Relations photos

2006-08 Video Editor Shawn Cagle of Picayune.

2001Senior Editor Sergiy Ivanenko of Kiln.

2005-07 Videographer Jesse Beck of Bay St. Louis.

PRCC goes high tech with new compact disk yearbook

Pearl River Community College blazed a new trail in 2001 with the release of the school's first compact disk yearbook.

PRCC was the first institution of higher learning in the state of Mississippi to convert its yearbook from the traditional printed form to the compact disk format.

"From the research that we had done on the Internet, we may be the first college in the United States to go totally with a compact disk yearbook," said Ronn Hague, technical advisor for PRCC's "Wildcat" yearbook.

2008 staffer Michael Mitchell shows off a yeardisk.

According to Hague, PRCC is not the first school to convert its yearbook from the traditional printed form to the compact disk format. "Several high schools in the U.S. have taken the step from information we got off of the Internet."

Each year, the disk yearbook contains more than 2,000 color and black and white photographs, as well as video clips videotaped throughout the shool year, and music files taken from recordings of the school bands and choirs. It also includes the entire school year's worth of Dixie Drawls, the school newspaper.

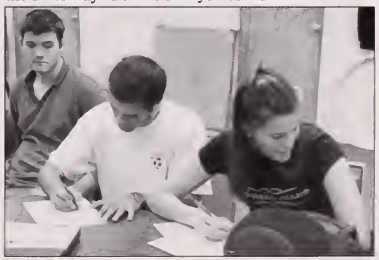
"The computer is a household item now," said Hague, "And the CD was a logical way to go. A yearbook is a memory depot, filled with pictures of friends, the campus and activities during the year. It's a virtual smorgasbord of memorabilia for the student."

Eight to 12 students comprised the annual staff each year.. The CD-ROM yearbook is a great way for any institution to help students out with costs. Everyone can afford the low cost of a CD, compared to the high cost of an annual.

The cost to PRCC students is only $5.25. The cost for traditional yearbooks can range from $30 to $50.

The CD is offered to students in an attractive maroon and gold binder.

Inside is a folder for the disk and notebook so students can autograph each other's yearbook in much the same way as traditional yearbooks.



Students work on their yeardisk assignments.

Pearl River Community College Board of Trustees

The following is a listing of trustees who have served Pearl River Community College during its first 100 years.

Forrest County

Trustee	Years of Service
George C. Curry	1968-93
Milton Evans	1970-72
Ellis Flynt	1972-76
Harlon Daughdrill	1977-85
Walter Cartier	1986-98
Herbert Ray Nobles	1994-
Kay Clay	1999-

Hancock County

Albert S. McQueen	1934-35
S.L. Toguett	1934-35
Kenneth McCarty	1936-44
	1960-64
	1972-75
Walter Gex Jr.	1936-37
S.L. Farve	1944-48
Ed E. Breland	1948-60
Rev. S. P. Powell	1948-66
Robert Ladner	1964-68
Omer Hass	1966-81
Eugene Ladner	1968-72
Terry Randolph	1976-79
	1983-91
	1996-98
Billy Sills	1980-82
Jim Thriffiley	1982-91
Myrna Bourgeouis	1992-95
Frank Ladner	1992-
Mike Ladner	1999-2003
David Kopf	2004-07
Alan Dedeaux	2008-

Jefferson Davis County

F.A. Parker	1938-45
D.F. Price	1938-43
John Bynum	1944-60
R.G. Lavingstone	1945-52
Dennis Fortenberry	1952-85
Hugh Cole	1960-64
Charles Speed	1964-2007
Macon Holliman	1986-89
Marion Fortenberry	1990-97
Sharon Dungan	1997-98
Wayne Fortenberry	1999-2007
Tony Waits	2007-
Ike Haynes	2008-

Lamar County

Z.A. Foshee	1938-43
J.R. Saucier	1938-43
A.A. Pigford	1939-40
J.T. Johnson	1944-48
Dr. D.B. Stevenson	1944-46
Dr. R.R. McNease	1947-48
C.D. Jackson	1948-54
D.C. Bilbo	1948-56
Quitman Lott	1954-56
Everette Eaton	1954-91
Jason Lee	1956-60
M.D. Anderson	1960-66
Billy Ray Hatten	1966-75
	1980-85
Grady Brown	1969-74
Mack Avery	1976-81
Emil Pav	1986-95
Bruce Hankins	1992-2007
Sue Smith	1996-98
Glenn Swan	1999-2007
Dale Purvis	2007-
Ben Burnett	2008-

Marion County

Mrs. J.B. Summer	1930-31
E.I. Watts	1930-31
J.W. Hitt	1930-31
J.C. Broom	1930-38
T.C. Fortenberry	1930-32
Isaac Singley	1932-33
M.C. Connerly	1932-33
Kelly Hammond	1932-43
F.S. Hammond	1932-35
N.L. Watts	1939-50
J. Bond	1944-45
H.F. Dunaway	1944-51
W.E. Simmons	1951-52
Frank Fortenberry	1952-91
N.L. Watts	1940-43
	1945-55
Garvin Allen	1956-64
Carl Loftin	1964-72
Frank Rayburn	1972-75
Bill Stafford	1976-85
Thomas Blakeney	1986-91
John Anderson	1992-99
William M. Davis	1992-95
Craig Robbins	1996-2007
Al Brooks	2000-
Ronald Fortenberry	2008-

Pearl River County

J.I. Megehee	1920-30
C.E. Bass	1920-24
I.S. Kirkland	1920-35
J.A. Bilbo	1921-32
D.F. Smith	1921-32
J.N. Stewart	1924-28
	1936-47
Mrs. H.L. Arledge	1924-32
A.B. Nicholson	1928-30
C. McDonald	1930-31
J.O. Williams	1932-35
T.G. Gipson	1932-35
Grayson Keaton	1932-35
T.D. Whitfield	1932-33
J.W. Greene	1934-35
I.A. Hurst	1934-35
Ray Fornea	1936-38
C.H. Hyde	1936-37
Sollie Burge	1936-38
D.F. Smith	1936-38
H.W. Fornea	1936-38
J.J. Holcomb	1940-44
P.M Hall	1940-47
H.K. Rouse	1939-47
Charlie Blackwell	1940-44
A.S. Davis	1941-59
A.O. Amacker	1944-52
	1956-60
Johnnie B. Davis	1945-47
W.O. Moody	1948-72
Enoch Seal Sr.	1948-52
Monroe Smith	1948-52
Johnnie Grice	1948-52
A.H. Knight	1953-62
Harry Sones	1953-56
	1960-64
D.L. Wesley	1952-59
Edmond Mitchell	1953-56
I.C. Rawls Jr.	1959-67
Aubrey Lowe	1960-70
J.E. Mitchell	1956-72
W.D. Russ	1962-66
T.P. Fornea	1964-68
Leo Z. Seal	1966-72
Russell Sinquefield	1967-72
Grady Brown	1970-74
Paul Monroe	1968-72
	1996-2001
J.P. Buckley	1972-73
Spence Lumpkin Jr.	1972-77
Tercy Smith	1972-80
J.Q. Frierson	1973-82
J.J. Holcomb	1974-78
R.E. Hobgood	1975-78
Greg Mitchell	1978-87
Edmond T. Mitchell	1979-91
Jack Stewart	1979-88
Adrian P. Lumpkin	1980-91
Kathryn Moody	1980-90
Jerry Burge	1983-91
Frank McClinton	1987-95
Jackanell Smith	1989-97
Ann Stringer	1991-95
David Earl Johnson	1992-98
Sylvia Posey	1992-95
William Floyd Seal	1992-95
Zeno Carter	1996-99
Sonny Knight	1996-
Diane Tate	1996-99
G.W. "Buster" Moody	1998-99
Gregory Mitchell	1999-
Richard Dossett	2000-05
Nina Guthrie	2000-01
Dennis Penton	2001-
Gale Harris	2004-
Barry Harper	2006-
Sandy McCardle	2007-

Members of the 1960 Board Trustees at PRC were from left: Seated - J.E. Mitchell, Jason Lee, A.O. Amacker, A.H. Knight, Aubrey Lowe, E.E. Breland and S.B. Powell. Standing - Dennis Fortenberry, Inman Rawls and Everette Eaton. Not pictured are Kennth McCarty, John Bynum, Hugh Cole, Malcolm Anderson, Garvin Allen, Frank Fortenberry, A.S. Davis, W.O. Moody and Harry B. Sones.

Photos courtesy of PRCC Museum archives

Members of the 1963 Board of Trustees were Dennis Fortenberry, S.P. Powell, Everette Eaton, Hugh Cole, Frank Fortenberry, W.O. Moody Jr., Malcolm Anderson, Inman Rawls Jr., Garvin H. Allen, Aubrey Lowe, Kenneth McCarty, J.E. Mitchell, W.D. Russ and Harry Sones.

Above, PRCC President William Lewis (left) congratulates Charles Speed of Prentiss for his 431/2 years of service as a member of the Board of Trustees. Speed was honored during Homecoming 2007 with the college's Distinguished Service Award. "Charles Speed's story of dedication and loyalty to Pearl River Community College is one that is truly remarkable," said Dr. Lewis. "Few people have ever served one of the state's colleges with the record of longevity and dedication that marked his tenure on the Board of Trustees."

Speed was appointed to the board by the Jefferson Davis County Board of Supervisors in January 1964. He resigned his position Aug. 1, 2007 after he and his wife, Patricia, moved from their home in Prentiss to Hattiesburg.

Members of the Pearl River Community College Centennial Committee include from left. Seated - Mary Jean Saulters, Ann Morris, Mary Lynn Smith (co-chairman), Dr. Becky Askew, Maude Parrish and Verlene Cole. Standing - Frances Herrin, Frank Ladner, Dr. Elton Raby, PRCC Forrest County Center Dean Dr. Cecil Burt, PRCC Vice President for Instruction Dr. John Grant, PRCC President Dr. William Lewis, Ronn Hague, Berlon Lee (co-chairman), Jack Byrd, PRCC Development Fooundation Executive Director Ernie Lovell (Pictured below; Herbert Ray Nobles, Chuck Abadie)

The PRCC Centennial Committee formulates year-long series

POPLARVILLE - From its 1909 roots as Mississippi's pioneer community college, Pearl River Community College has long been recognized as a leader in the state and the South in providing excellence in academic, career and technical education.

PRCC has planned a year-long Centennial Celebration beginning in fall 2008. School officials and supporters geared up for a wide range of activities that will incorporate academic, social and community functions.

The anniversary date: Sept. 8, 1909.

"We are coming up on a really special time for our college," said PRCC President William Lewis. "To be a part of this will be really special. This is going to be a really good time for the college."

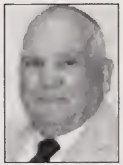
To help formulate a year-long series of activities, PRCC formed a Centennial Celebration Steering Committee. The co-chairs are Mary Lynn Smith of Poplarville and Berlon Lee of Picayune.

The committee held its first meeting June 21, 2007.

"We want you to help us formulate a series of activities at different times that will focus on the history of the college," Dr. Lewis told the committee. "We ought to consider the first day of the operation to be a special day. A lot of people will want to be involved in this. This will not only showcase our institution, but community colleges as a whole in the state since we were the first."

Smith and Lee, both PRCC graduates, said they were honored and excited to be selected as co-chairmen for the centennial.

"This institution has meant so much to me," said Lee, a 1954 graduate.



H.R. Nobles

Chuck Abadie

"What an opportunity and what a privilege. This can be one of the greatest events in this college's long history."

PRCC Public Relations photos

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